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# THE HOUSE OF REES

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with

ALLIED FAMILIES



1800 ~ 1938



*By*

EDWIN STARKEY

Oklahoma City

1938

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CARRY ON!

'Twas the slogan they bequeathed us as they  
fell beside the way,  
And for them and for our children, let us  
Carry On! today.

---EDGAR A. GUEST

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Recd Feb 27-1979



## FOREWORD AND DEDICATION

THE scene of this true story lies, principally, in Kerr County, Texas.

The persons whose lives and experiences are told in this publication form much of the background of *LEST WE FORGET*, issued in 1935, and this history was inspired by the thought that the original work did not do justice to those principals, and we felt that posterity would lose a beautiful, instructive and wealthy heritage when and if the lives of our parents were lost sight of in the cycle of ages—hence *THE HOUSE OF REES, WITH ALLIED FAMILIES*.

While I subscribe my name as author, I would be most ungrateful if I did not acknowledge the help of others of the kinship who worked so diligently and patiently with me in this tedious, but agreeable and worthwhile undertaking.

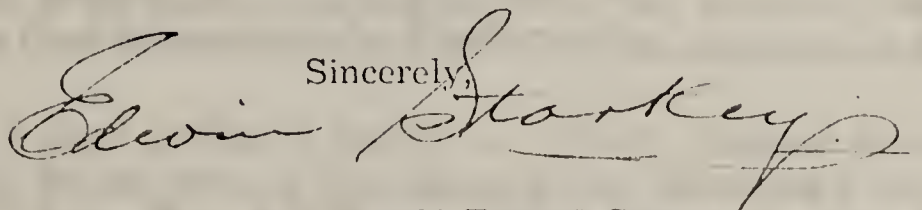
Following the narratives will be found a genealogical section giving the recorded lineage of the four branches of *THE HOUSE OF REES, WITH ALLIED FAMILIES*, with blank space following each Branch of the House. These spaces may be used to record future important events.

The perpetuation of this history will increase its value and interest as the years come and go. Human destiny is the noblest thing that can engage the intellect of man. A life well spent, a character uprightly sustained is a legacy rich in splendor for any one to leave his children. "Honor thy Father and thy Mother."

I affectionately dedicate the *HOUSE OF REES*

TO MY KIN.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Edwin Starkey". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the left of the typed address.

706 East 18 Street,  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

1938





# THE HOUSE OF REES

## WITH ALLIED FAMILIES

### DERIVATION OF THE NAME

MANY surnames of today which seem to defy classification or explanation are corruptions of ancient forms which have become disguised almost beyond recognition. In America, the melting pot of all nations, a greater variety of family names exists than anywhere else in the world, and present considerable difficulty to the student of etymology and family history. Those Americans who bear old and honored names, such as Rees, may be rightfully proud of their heritage. While a surname, in its origin, may be humble or ingenious, its significance today lies not so much in a literal interpretation of its original meaning, but in the many things that have happened to it since it first came into use.

The surname Rees is found on ancient records as Rhys, Rys, Riess. Reece, Reese or Rees, of which the last three are still in general use, and may be found in every State of the Union.

One authority claims that Rees is of Welsh origin, derived from Rhys. He cites much authority for his contention, among others, offers that Reverend David Rees came to New England from Wales with his family, 1700, thence to Pennsylvania. A son, David Rees, moved to North Carolina and became a signer of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence in 1775.

Opposed to that theory of nativity, we have the handed-down information for several generations that the Rees group discussed in this publication was of German, Dutch, or Pennsylvania Dutch origin, and there is much argument in support of that belief. The older living members of the Rees group agree to an understanding that John Rees and his forebears came from Pennsylvania to North Carolina, and were of Dutch nativity.

Quoting from a published history of a North Carolina family of German nativity by the name of Cline (having Rees pre-lineage) we have the following: "Peter Rees, the Pioneer. Peter Rees came from Pennsylvania to North Carolina prior to 1785. He had married a daughter of Peter Leah." The Cline history gives the names of children born to Peter Rees the Pioneer, among which we find: Peter, Jacob, Louis, and Ann. Those given names are found among the descendants of John and Henrietta Rees. Again, the Lincolnton, N. C., courthouse records disclose that Jacob Rees signed as "surety" when John Rees procured his license to marry Henrietta Lowrance. The Cline history adds, that Jacob, son of Peter Rees married Mary Lowrance.

Another theory suggests itself: Perhaps the name Rees was of Welsh origin, and as many of them migrated to Pennsylvania at the time when immigrants were pouring into the Keystone State from Germany,





and surrounding territory, many inter-marriages resulted. (One genealogist suggests that 'there wasn't anybody else to marry!') It is an accepted truth that the Dutch people greatly predominated in Pennsylvania. Continued inter-marriage resulted in all children being born with mostly Dutch blood coursing through their veins. The German language was spoken almost entirely in those early Pennsylvania settlements of the eighteenth century. Thus, everybody who migrated elsewhere came to be known as "Pennsylvania Dutch."

Again referring to the German origin of Rees, and by the courtesy of J. M. Ballard, Claremont, North Carolina, a friendly and valuable helper in Rees research, many extracts from old records were furnished. Rupp's Collection of 30,000 Immigrants shows Palatines sailing from Rotterdam to Pennsylvania over the years 1727 to 1772, in large numbers. The oath of allegiance signed by them is interesting:

"We subscribers, natives and late inhabitants of the Palatinate upon the Rhyne and places adjacent, having transported ourselves and families into this Province of Pennsylvania, a colony subject to the Crown of Great Britain, in hopes and expectation of finding a retreat and peaceable settlement therein, do solemnly promise and engage, that we will be faithful and bear true allegiance to his present MAJESTY, KING GEORGE THE SECOND, and his successors, kings of Great Britain, and will be faithful to the proprietor of this Province; and will demean ourselves peaceably to all His said Majesty's subjects, and strictly observe and conform to the laws of England and of this Province, to the utmost of our power and the best of our understanding."

Among these immigrants, passengers on fifteen of the ships, nineteen signed the name Riess, Reiss, or Ries. Two made their marks, and an English court clerk signed for them as Reese. The variant spelling of the name is common to family surnames. Some of their Riess given names were: Johannes, Johan-Georg, Johan - J a c o b, Johan - Jost, J o h a n n - Georg, Johann-Conrad, Joh-Peter. Others were Hans, Daniel, Nicholas, Jacob, Martin, Conrad, Sebastian, Christian, Samuel and Wilhelm.

While not fully proven, it appears that the preponderance of evidence leans toward Rees being of German derivation; and it seems reasonable to assume that the present-day Rees ancestry dates back to those early arrivals in Pennsylvania, and that the direct immigrant ancestor was among those from the "Palatinate upon the Rhyne and places adjacent."

Theories and guesses are not satisfying to the historian. The foregoing is submitted, as a basis of reasoning, so that the reader may solve the problem of nativity to suit himself. It may be absolutely relied upon that John and Henrietta Rees were the founders of THE HOUSE OF REES.



THE HOUSE OF REES  
With  
ALLIED FAMILIES  
  
Founded By  
JOHN AND HENRIETTA REES  
  
in  
South Carolina

ALL stories should begin with once-upon-a-time, and should have a geographical setting. This ancestral history is introduced with authentic statements as to time and place, and supported by existing records.

John Rees, from Pennsylvania, married Henrietta Lowrance October 22, 1821, in Lincolntown, Lincoln County, North Carolina. Vardrey McBee, the Court Clerk, performed the marriage ceremony. Based upon certain old records, it is deduced that John Rees was born in 1794. It is definitely known that Henrietta first saw the light of day in 1800. The couple lived in North Carolina and farmed until 1828, then moved to Purdy, McNairy County, Tennessee, where John Rees engaged in his trade as a furniture maker. He died at Purdy, 1842. The widow Rees and her four children migrated to Texas, leaving Tennessee in the year 1851.

John and Henrietta Rees were the known founders of THE HOUSE OF REES, and their four children, born at Purdy: Sidney, Adolphus, Martha and Alonzo, along with their respective life mates, furnish the basis of the narrative to be found in this publication, the first of its kind ever written and published by any of their descendants.







HENRIETTA (LOWRANCE) REES

1800-1882





THE HOUSE OF REES  
With  
ALLIED FAMILIES  
PENNSYLVANIA—NORTH CAROLINA—TENNESSEE—TEXAS  
*Established in Southwest Texas*

THE settlement and civilization of what is now called the Hill Country, or the Upper Guadalupe River country, of which Kerrville, Kerr County, Texas, is the center, began about 1850. Ranger Captain Jack Hays made several scouting trips through the country prior to 1850, and Jushua D. Brown is known to have established residence and a shingle making project where Kerrville now stands in 1846. Captain Joseph A. Tivy is said to have surveyed the country at an earlier date. Captain Tivy later became a real benefactor of the Kerrville schools, contributing largely to their future support.

From 1850 to 1870, many the ox-team, wearily dragging a creaking, cumbersome load, came slowly wending its way up the river from the "lower settlements" and from Eastern States.

Alongside the team walked the husband, an ox-goad in one hand and a gun in the other, constantly alert for hidden dangers which beset the courageous pioneers who first broke trail in the new country. Inside the wagon, a few scant belongings, reduced to the minimum to lighten the load; bedding, a cooking outfit, and a meager supply of grub to last them to their destination, supplemented along the way by the keen marksmanship of the man, as he occasionally added wild game to the simple menu.

Yet more important, and in the wagon, would be found the young wife, dressed in stout cow-hide shoes, home-spun dress and a sun-bonnet atop her shapely head. She possessing all the inward charm and outward beauty of a modern debutante, only lacking the cosmetic touch and bits of finery to successfully compete with the modern beauty.

At her breast a child; across her knees a muzzle-loading rifle, eyes and ears alert, she did her full part in breaking down an untamed west, and building up an important section of this country, and making it into a "habitation of the just."

The printing of a roster of the early pioneers of Kerr County, Texas, is risky, for fear that worthy names be unintentionally omitted. No records were kept, and many old family names exist only in the minds of a few living people. Some of the old and honored families of that section, whose descendants carry on and perpetuate the names, follow. Many of their descendants yet live within the boundaries of Kerr County.

For purpose of this story, the names Brown and Tivy are entitled to head the list. Following closely on their heels, other early Kerr County settlers, some of whose progeny still live there, are: Ridley, Rees, Star-





key, Tedford, Burney, Saner, Scott, Nichols, Dietert, Schreiner, Real, Moore Pafford. Others who were early Kerr County settlers: Goss, Wharton, Glenn, Wellborn, Lowrance, Williamson, Nowlin, Henderson, Nelson, Merritt, Zumwalt, Burleson, Bishop, Denton, Watson, Cocke, Schwethelm, Karger, Wiedenfeld, and others.

To the honor and memory of these pioneer family names, a granite monument might well be erected; their histories preserved in written word; and their memories enshrined in the hearts and minds of all who follow in the peaceful paths, first blazed and laid out by them at so great a sacrifice.

For almost a century the name Rees and the people born of that surname and allied families' surnames have been an important part of Southwest Texas, centering in Kerr County. It is to this group now numbering approximately five hundred that tribute is paid, and the story is named THE HOUSE OF REES, WITH ALLIED FAMILIES.

The known genealogy of the Rees family began October 22, 1821, when John Rees of Pennsylvania origin and Henrietta Lowrance, born 1800, died 1882, were united in the holy bonds of matrimony at Lincolntown, North Carolina. A farm was owned by John Rees in Lincoln County, N. C., from 1821 until 1828 when he sold it, and the couple, lured by reported advantages of going "West," moved to the then far-famed Forkadeer Country in the Southwestern part of Tennessee. The town of Purdy, McNairy County, was their destination. Though disappointed because the section did not live up to its long distance reputation, the couple worked industriously. Happiness came into their lives by the arrival of a baby boy, Sidney, 1829, then Adolphus, 1831, next a little daughter, Martha, 1834, and then Alonzo, 1837.

Joy reigned supreme in this humble family circle, but fate decreed that it could not last unbroken. Another son, Alpheus, was born, probably 1840, but died in infancy. Then the father, John Rees, was called to his Eternal Home in 1842. The bereft widow, with Spartan-like courage, gathered her brood of four children about her—the oldest twelve, the youngest five—and moved to a farm two miles from Purdy where by good management and industry she accumulated some property and means. It was on that Tennessee farm that the Widow Rees taught her sons how to plow and plant.

Not being satisfied with that country, and wanting greater opportunities for her growing boys, coupled with the spirit of a true pioneer, she looked longingly Westward. In 1851 the little group left for Texas, going down the Mississippi River by steam boat to New Orleans, thence to Indianola, Texas, where wagon and oxen were purchased for the trip further West, arriving in January, 1852, DeWitt County. Later to the Medina River Country near the present town of Bandera. A few months residence in that sparsely settled country convinced Mother Rees that another move to a more peopled community was imminent if she and her children were to escape the arrows and scalping knives in the hands of Indians who were terrorizing the Medina River Country. A hurried and





hazardous ox-team trip landed them on the North Side of the Guadalupe River in what later became Kerr County of Texas.

The little family with its few worldly possessions became a part of the cargo of the slow-moving river boat at Memphis, which chugged tediously down the Mississippi. Imbued with anticipation, the young folks were ambitious to get on to the new country, and chafed with impatience. The mother felt pangs of regret at leaving old friends and the more peaceful surroundings in Tennessee, yet hope beat high within her breast as she visualized the future, despite the possible hardships and dangers. The mystery of the future fascinated them all, like a door that had neither lock nor key. The time spent in DeWitt County was none too prosperous or happy. Chills and fever were suffered with few facilities at hand for combatting the prevailing ailment. Then with some fear and trepidation the trek was started to a more healthful part of Texas, one which threatened even more violent extermination by savages. Heeding the often repeated precautions of the mother, born of instinct rather than reason, the four young folks grew apprehensive as the journey progressed. Then and later while living in the untamed Medina River country, and after moving to the Kerr County section, their apprehensions developed into stern realities. As they launched forth in the shadowy future, homeless in a land for homes, courage, and COURAGE alone! fitted them for the field of promise and the soul-testing experiences that awaited them.

The Lone Star State, as Texas will forever be known, had but a few years before, hauled down its flag as an independent Republic and hoisted the "Stars and Stripes Forever" as a State of the Union. This last emblem of Government was the sixth that had waived over its vast expanse.

Beginning 1684 when the redoubtable La Salle discovered Texas, by chance rather than design, and took possession in the name of France, knightly romance is written into the history of that great Commonwealth, as it merged from original governmental control to others. But it is far more than a romantic legend. It is a record of bold conceptions and bolder deeds; the story of the discoverer penetrating unknown wildernesses; of the pioneer matching his strength and wits against the savage; of the colonist struggling for his freedom and his rights. It is the chronicle of the birth of a people; the history of the rise and progress of a great State. The independence of Texas was carved from such never to be forgotten events as "Remember the Alamo!" "Remember Goliad!" the Black Bean atrocity, and the final victory over Mexico and Santa Anna at San Jacinto.

During its ten years as a Republic; with a warring Nation to the South; with countries across the seas having friendly attitude, yet perhaps mixed with selfish interests; with the United States refusing to admit as a State; with Indian raids on every hand; Texas struggled against great odds. Even after admission to the Union, her troubles were not ended. In many respects her troubles had just begun. The War between the States was just around the corner.

It was into this teeming mass of adventure and uncertainty that





Mother Henrietta Rees and her family plunged, with little more than resolute courage as an asset.

Thus, and midst a precarious setting, THE HOUSE OF REES was established in the Hill Country of West Texas. By marriage it soon spread to the Invincible Eight, and has grown to large proportions, due to numerous progeny, a custom of early days.

Riving shingles by hand offered about the only means of making money in the Kerr County district, and the three Rees young men so engaged. Farming and raising stock attracted them, as the country was well adapted to such industry. In 1854 James M. Starkey, native Tennessean, but fresh from the gold fields of California, arrived in the settlements and one of the first persons he met was Martha Rees. They married in 1860. About the same time, and shortly before, Sidney Rees married Emily Tedford; later Adolphus Rees married Lucy Nowlin, and in 1860 Alonzo Rees and Ellen Brown were wed.

The life spans of the eight, except that of J. M. Starkey, included witnessing the passing of the nineteenth century, and the birth of the twentieth. Their names appear in radiant light as faithful, valiant, early-day pioneers, who placed their talents upon the altar of sacrifice that they might help in building up a commonwealth in this, the new abode.

Each of the Invincible Eight stood out in personal characteristics; they had strong wills; they had positive and decided opinions, some at wide variance with others. This was a natural outgrowth of the strenuous lives they lived, during an era when individual beliefs and personal efforts were necessary to existence. Rugged individualism, if you please, was what pulled them through to whatever degree of success they achieved, both spiritual and material.

A character in the delightful little book, Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch, is described in a manner that seems to apply. White was white and black was black to those strong-willed pioneers, and "Time had not yet filled in the canvass with the myriad grays that blend into one another until all lines are effaced, and only the Master Artist knows the boundaries."

Time, experience, and the calm judgment of these pioneers filled in the grays, and effaced the lines, with no sacrifice of principle; with no relinquishing of right practice; but with more tolerance, and less adherence to man-written creed or partisan edict; all blending with the will of the Master Artist.

These four couples, appropriately called the Invincible Eight in this story, established homes in Kerr County, Texas, and followed farming and stock raising, though milling and threshing were profitable side lines. Alonzo Rees was an old time thresherman; the Sidney Rees boys later ran a large outfit, and the Adolphus Rees sons brought the first steam driven separator into that country. The Starkey boys helped in its operation.





The immediate descendants of Sidney, Adolphus, Alonzo Rees, and Martha, who became Mrs. James Monroe Starkey, and grew to maturity were thirty-six in number, all first cousins, and were reared within a radius of ten miles, near Kerrville and Center Point, Texas. All during their youthful lives they visited, worked, played and romped, and hunted together. The principal games played were: Hide and Seek, Ante (Anthony) Over, Hot Ball, Mumble Peg, and Stink Base. Wrestling, jumping, running, leap frog—all roughly played—were included in the 'diversion' of the boys, all after a day of hard work. But that was fun! Some attended the same schools, and many of the younger ones were taught in the school room by older cousins who became teachers. A close bond of fellowship and relationship grew, which endures among the living to this day, even though the intervening years have been many, and some have lived in other states.

These thirty-six cousins, thirty-two named Rees and four Starkey, entered varied walks of life. Several taught school, one a physician, many farmed and raised stock, while others engaged in mercantile lines, life insurance, library work, newspaper, surveying, engineering and other occupations. Two of the girls married Methodist ministers. All of the thirty-six married except two, and we estimate one hundred twenty-eight children as the immediate progeny of those progenitors. They, too, are following varied lines of vocations, and are scattered about in many States, though a large percentage yet live in Texas and many in and around Kerr County. One lives in Columbia, South America, another in Massachusetts, and several in California. Twenty-nine of the original thirty-six first cousins yet survive, the oldest, Miss Alice Starkey, is seventy-seven, and the youngest, Mrs. Abbie (Rees) Decherd, forty-three years of age. The oldest in-law cousin is Bob Hodges, Center Point, 85 years of age, and the oldest living person mentioned of the family connection.

A total of six generations, beginning with John and Henrietta Rees is treated in this story numbering 485 people, who were born to or adopted by the descendants, and counting the in-laws who married into the lineage. Over four hundred yet survive. Beginning with the original John Rees in North Carolina, tracing down to the last born before closing this record, we find that 330 human souls have thus far been born with a direct trace of the original John's blood coursing through their veins. The other 155 became House of Rees members by adoption or marriage. THE HOUSE OF REES bids fair to propagate the name and keep it unsullied, by rearing many good citizens to live useful, honorable lives. One outside the ranks, once said of this group, "They are usually on the jury, and seldom before it."

Throughout this narrative much is said of the hardships endured by these sturdy pioneers and their children. Without lessening the emphasis put upon those soul-testing experiences, it may well be said that their lives were not all gloom or seriousness. They learned how to relax amid tense surroundings, get together for family visits, picnics, Fourth of





July barbecues, Christmas gatherings and at all-day church services with "dinner on the grounds." Such events, though far between were anticipated for weeks and days by the then younger set, work was pushed to the limit, the corn "laid by," or the fall plowing finished, so that not even the thought of duty left undone would mar the full enjoyment of those occasions.

As a group they were decidedly popular in social circles of the community. As to looks, the boys were big awkward fellows, gentlemen to the core, but with little drawing room polish among the older ones. The younger set acquired more ease and grace in such matters. The girls, however, presented an array of good looks, and were fashion plates in the gay nineties with their sailor hats and mutton-leg sleeves. Some face powder, perhaps, but no other cosmetic was used to adorn their faces, already made pretty by wholesome living, good health and out door work and exercise.

As the thirty-six first cousins grew up, many weddings ensued. Those events are remembered to this day, although they began sixty years ago. Gala events they were. No engraved or written invitations were issued. All the Kinship "just went." First, perhaps, to well-wish the united couple, but the wedding feast played no small part as an attraction and had a noticeable effect upon the attendance. The table groaned under its load of tempting food. No less than three kinds of meat, done to a turn, with fried chicken in the lead, every known pickle and fruit preserve, coffee in abundance, all topped off with pies and cakes of every description. Not the least of these were the layer-cakes, many layers high, with the delectable filling of various jellies dribbling down the sides. The hostess, upon receiving many well deserved compliments as to her culinary art, would heave an assumed sigh, and coyly remark that they "didn't turn out as well as usual." It should be remembered that no professional caterers then existed, and no delicatessen shop was around the corner. How those women could cook!

Transportation to all gatherings was over crooked, rough, unkept roads, at times through muddy ruts a foot deep, and included walking, horse-back, a farm wagon drawn by a pair of stubborn mules, the wagon bed having a front spring-seat, and filled with young people sitting in chairs with boards across, and perhaps a youngster asleep in the feed box in the rear. When a family could afford a "hack" or buggy in the early days, such was regarded as indicating affluence, and eyed by some with a degree of envy, as downright extravagance. But they got there, had a good time, and returned to their own homes at the unheard of hours of eleven or twelve o'clock at night. Those same roads are now paved highways, over which modern automobiles spin at a mile a minute. Truly, mankind fares as the pioneer dares.

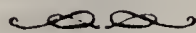
So far as the lineage can be individually traced to the present and younger generation they are all fine, upstanding people and good citizens. In church membership, the Methodist denomination leads. While great





wealth has not been the fortune of many, they are very decidedly the type of progressive people who "do well." The pioneering, progressive spirit of the founders of THE HOUSE OF REES seems to carry on, even to the third and fourth generations, for they are not content to view with apathy the great achievements of ancestry, but ever mindful of that background, they are keeping pace with the rapidly changing methods and need for education, special training and equipment in this twentieth century world where you have to "run like everything in order to stay where you are."

Following this general narrative may be found individual stories of the original eight people who established THE HOUSE OF REES in Southwest Texas. They may properly be entitled, The Invincible Eight.



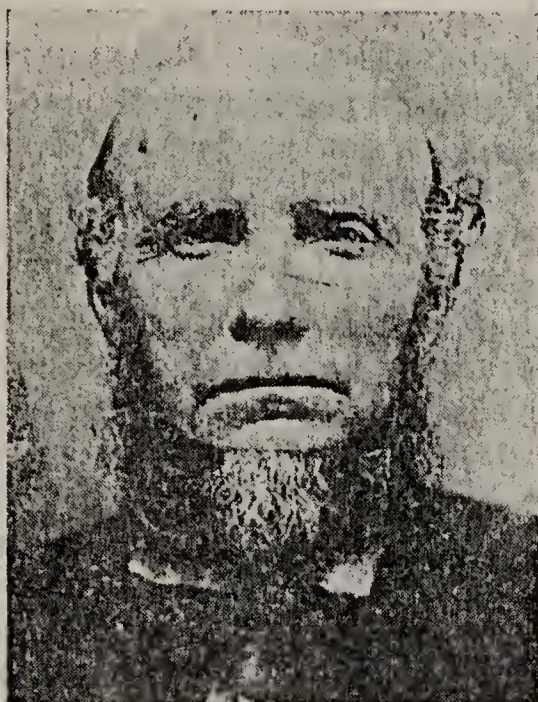
"Make new friends, but keep the old  
These are silver, those are gold.  
New made friendship is like new wine,  
Age will mellow and refine.  
Friendship that has stood the test,  
Time, and change, are surely best;  
Brow may wrinkle, hair turn gray,  
Friendship never knows decay.  
And 'mid old friends tried and true  
Once more we our youth renew.  
Cherish friendship in your breast  
New is good, but old is best."



# THE HOUSE OF REES

THE INVINCIBLE EIGHT WHO MADE IT

Sidney Rees Was the Very Essence of Ambition and Energy



SIDNEY REES

SIDNEY BENNER REES. (1829-1909). Beginning at Purdy, McNairy County, Tennessee, the mantle of responsibility fell early upon the shoulders of Sidney Rees, the oldest child of the widowed Henrietta Rees. He was twelve years old when his father, John Rees, passed away. No present living person knew him then, but those who were brought into contact with Sidney Rees during his later life know that he neither hesitated nor balked, even as a twelve-year-old lad, at which time he became the titular head of THE HOUSE OF REES. Hundreds now living in Southwest Texas who knew him will agree that he possessed a great physical body, a sound, clear thinking mind, a heart of gold, and literally a super-abundance of energy and ambition. He arose at the crack of dawn, or before, his six stalwart sons were awakened by him, (visitors, no exception) the chores done, a sumptuous breakfast served, and off to the activities of the day, he leading the way. His eighty years of life were crowded with getting things done, and those around him were busily engaged in trying to keep his furious pace. On the day of his death, December 8, 1909, he was at work doing chores on the farm that had been his home for fifty years, when the Death Angel suddenly beckoned and said "Come Home!"







At his funeral, his youngest brother, Alonzo, said: "I never knew a better, purer man." All who knew the man and his life will fully agree. At a family reunion of his numerous descendants, held a few years ago, at Center Point, Texas, Hon. Julius Real who had known his thirteen children from infancy said, "I have never known of any one of his thirteen children saying or doing anything that would reflect on the good name of their father, Sidney Rees." No finer things could be said of a man and his family.

His marriage to Emily Tedford was March 15, 1860, and thirteen children blessed the union. Some school teaching, and his selection as the first District Court Clerk of Kerr County, 1856, comprised some of his early engagements, but farming on a large scale, and ranching, particularly sheep raising, made up most of his life's work. For about fifteen years he was engaged in partnership with Capt. Charles Schreiner, the banker-merchant-financier of Kerrville, Texas, in a sheep raising project on a large scale in the "Divide Country" of Kerr County, founding the famous Live Oak Ranch, twenty-five miles west of Kerrville, yet owned by the Schreiner interests. As usual he led the way and set the pace for his sons and hired help who aided him in his sheep ranching. From dawn till dark, there was "something doing" every minute on that ranch.

He commanded with crisp words, but mostly by example. He got things done by doing them. If there was ever a *doer*—that man was Sidney Rees. He did things on a large scale; had no patience with small operations, small doings, small ambitions—small anything. His was a wide vision of great achievement. He had but three months actual schooling, yet he was an early Kerr County school teacher, at a time when a gun was necessarily a part of a teacher's equipment, along with the ability to impart the rudiments of the three "R's".

Sidney Rees never wasted a moment of his life. When not working or asleep, he was delving into good literature. He not only mastered the English language, but acquired a thorough knowledge of Spanish, and could write and translate fluently, in part a necessity, as he employed large forces of Mexicans in his extensive ranching experiences.

Late in life he lost his right forefinger from blood-poisoning, the condition resulting from a barbed wire penetrating the finger. A friend, Doc Steele, expressed sympathy which elicited this reply; holding up his hand, Sidney said, "That's a whole lot better than no hand." He was a model of fortitude in any exigency. He was, indeed, invincible.

After a day of almost vicious activity a hearty supper was eaten, a bit of respite of reading and pleasant conversation, Sidney Rees was off to bed, and asleep in a brief moment. No worrying or tossing for that man who had done his best during the day. He had the happy faculty of dropping down at noon-time for a short refreshing nap, and used to say, "Any well man can go to sleep if he has a clear conscience." With all his hustle and hurry of the day, he never lost his temper, was never out of sorts, always had a kindly word for everybody. He was a forward-looking



in to the last, boundlessly energetic to the end; scrupulously honest, and  
ould have no companionship with iniquity.

“Of all God’s handiwork we see,  
As oft life’s viviscope we scan,  
We find His masterpiece to be  
A noble, true and honest man.”

The old Sidney Rees farm and home was situated near where Turtle  
creek flows into the Guadalupe River in Kerr County. That place was for  
ars the Texas home site of Mother Henrietta Rees and her sons and  
ughter, until at marriage the others founded homes of their own.

Near the fork of the two streams, and on the old farm, a Methodist  
mp Meeting was held each summer for many years. First the meetings  
re held under a brush arbor (later a tabernacle was built) where Sidney  
es and his sons did much of the work. His wife, Emily, and her daugh-  
s provided food for scores who attended the services. Tents housed  
ny nearby, during the “protracted” meeting. Mighty religious up-  
avals were felt there, and countless Center Point and Kerr County people  
gan their religious lives and church activities at that old Camp Meeting  
ice. Romance, too, had its sway, Cupid getting in his work among the  
unger set. That was the scene of bethrotals of many present day prom-  
ent Kerr County couples.

An older daughter says that she and an older sister rode behind  
eir father on a mule to Sunday School, the girls wearing home-made  
nk bonnets. Another said that “Pa kept us busy on the old farm, digging  
umps and piling rocks when no other work was due to be performed.”  
e adds a thankfulness for early sturdy training which fitted her and  
ers for a life of usefulness and an enjoyment of ripe old age.

Sidney Rees was deeply religious without ostentation, his prayers  
re crisp and brief, his table “Grace” still shorter, both fraught with  
rnestness and deep unction. With due reverence it may be said that  
en the time came for him to go, it was just like this energetic soul to  
urry on to Heaven.” His body rests in the cemetery at Center Point,  
xas.







## *THE INVINCIBLE EIGHT—Continued*

### A Brief Sketch of Mrs. Sidney Rees—the Mother of Thirteen



EMILY REES

EMILY (TEDFORD) REES. (1844-1906). The life partner of Sidney Rees was the sixteen-year-old girl he married, 1860, Emily Tedford. She was of the typical West Texas pioneer stock, born in West Tennessee, and moved to Texas in the eighteen fifties with her widowed mother, two sisters and four brothers, settled and lived on Verde Creek, Kerr County. Her father was an early sheriff of McNairy County, Tennessee, and was John Milton Tedford. The Tedfords were inter-related with the famous Burney family of West Texas. The mother of Emily was nee Julia Burney, a sister of Hance, DeWitt and Robert Burney, Mrs. Tom Saner and Mrs. William Pafford. Mrs. Julia (Burney) Tedford died in Kerr County, 1899, was buried at Center Point, Texas.

Emily knew how to do things and get them done. She was a good manager, too, as that duty fell upon her during the years her husband was engaged in the ranching business further West, the vast farm largely managed by her was kept going during those years.

Thirteen children, six sons and seven daughters, were born to this couple. Quite a group to feed, and to have much company in that hospitable home was the rule rather than the exception. A visit did not "count" in the old days unless the callers stayed all night, or at least partook of a





neal. Presiding over this the largest branch of THE HOUSE OF REES, Mrs. Emily Rees churned tons of butter, salted down herds of pork, made car loads of lye soap, gathered millions of eggs, picked thousands of geese or feathers, always raised the biggest gardens in the country, put up and canned fruits and barrels of sour kraut, enough to fill several large warehouses, baked enough bread to feed an army for years, and wrung the necks of more frying-sized chickens than anybody West of the Mississippi River.

(We hope the reader will pardon the liberal use of superlatives in his narrative, but even so, we have not done the subject full justice.)

Her youngest daughter vouches for all this, and adds that she "held the heads of the geese, and suffered their nips or bites while others picked the feathers."

Emily's vigilance over matters affecting the progress, production and conservation of the old Sidney Rees home and large farm was unceasing, day and night. After a busy day, she found socks to knit and larn, clothes to mend, gates to close and chickens to coop. Truly her day was never done. She was a conservator in the truest meaning of that word, thus making a splendid partner for her husband, Sidney Rees, who contrasted by being a typical producer, giving limited attention to details. She was an outspoken person, as freely face to face as behind the back, at times a bit pessimistic, approaching sarcasm. She spoke few words of encouragement, but her deeds of appreciation of those about her were constant and innumerable. No finer, truer woman was ever a product of that great Southwestern country.

When her boys and girls, as they grew up, left the old roof to build homes of their own, her mother heart followed them, and no day was too stormy, no night too dark to respond to their needs or misfortune. In stoic manner, characteristic of the family, their unspoken appreciation was great and enduring. Neighbors in trouble knew just where to find a friend for she could ease the aches and pains, or make the nourishing broth. Her generosity knew no bounds and from her bountiful supply she shared with many. Very few left her door empty-handed.

During her later years her husband had relinquished his ranch interests, spending his time at the old home in Kerr County, relieving her of many responsibilities. Brief attacks of illness recurring at intervals during those years was all too prophetic of a malady destined to hush the voice and still the heart of a truly wonderful character. She came to the evening of her life to see her thirteen children reared to maturity, as fine a lot as any woman ever mothered. In 1906 she quietly passed on, the first time death had ever knocked at the door of that large and splendid family. At the funeral her six sons were the pall bearers. Her earthly body rests beside that of her husband at Center Point, Texas. Her appropriate tombstone inscription is, "She hath done what she could."

Emily and Sidney Rees were born in the same community in West Tennessee, and were charter members of the Center Point Methodist Church, an affiliation that was never changed during their entire lives.





## THE INVINCIBLE EIGHT—Continued

The Story of D. A. Rees and His Intensive Life.



DOLPH REES

DANIEL ADOLPHUS REES (1831-1901). The second child of John and Henrietta Rees was called Dolph all his life, born at Purdy, McNairy County, Tennessee, December 2, 1831. Bear in mind that his parents had left North Carolina about three years before, coming to this land of promise, and meeting with much disappointment. Therefore it was no bed of roses that met his vision when he became an important member of THE HOUSE OF REES. His childhood and 'teen-age life was parallel with that of his two year older brother Sidney, and he shared all of the hardships with the early widowed mother, and took his full share of work and responsibility in eking out an existence from Tennessee soil, while yet a lad, and joined bravely in the move to the wild and untamed West Texas Country in 1851. He shouldered his full part in the hardships and dangers which beset the little family during its stay in DeWitt County, Texas, and later in Bandera County, and the present Kerr County, Texas. His brushes with the Red Men were frequent, once when working with his two brothers at the Ridley saw mill on Verde Creek the Indians tried to decoy the boys from their shanties by imitating the wild turkey gobble, but they refused to become victims of the clever devices of the Redskins.

Later he became a Texas Ranger. In 1864 was in Company A, Mounted Texas State Troops under Capt. Wm. Banta. Enlisted in the Confederate cause, honorably discharged. Later, Texas Guardsman doing commun-



ty duty for many years in defense against the Comanche Indians who made frequent raids on the Settlements with disastrous results. Many the time Adolphus was called upon to mount and leave upon a moment's notice following the raiders in the hope of recovering stolen stock. One such call came on a beautiful moon-lit night, he leaving a newly born babe at home. Like all true patriots and pioneers, he heard and heeded the call to duty for common good. The heroic women stayed home, suppressed their burning anxiety and carried on. His wife, Lucy, endured such trials repeatedly.

Adolphus Rees served as the first Clerk of Kerr County, 1856-1858, and as such issued and signed the marriage licenses of many of the first families of that section. His early records are models of composition, precision, neatness, and penmanship, yet in good state of preservation in the Kerr County Courthouse vaults. Many years later, his youngest son was Deputy Clerk in the same County office. He engaged in farming and stock raising, the latter being his forte. After marrying Lucy Nowlin, 1863, he first farmed on Curry's Creek, in Kendall County, and about 1870 moved back to Kerr, established the old D. A. Rees home immediately northwest of Kerrville. His farm stretched from a mile front on the Guadalupe River to Town Creek on the back. He was a hard worker, persistent and determined in all things, a careful farmer and an expert in raising fine horses. In fact, he pioneered fine horse and other stock raising in Kerr County, always having the best. The first locomotive and railroad he ever saw was when the first one steamed into Kerrville, when the San Antonio and Aransas Pass road was completed in 1887.

He was careful, meticulous and thorough in all things. His horses and other stock were always fat; his wagons, harness and implements always in repair. Fences well built, and never a gate dragging or hanging by a broken hinge. His home, barn, sheds and the like, were substantially built and constantly kept up. The grain and hay stacks on the Dolph Rees farm were the best in the country and withstood rain and storm. To visit his place was to be impressed with thoroughness and plentifulness.

Adolphus Rees was determined in will, of strong mentality, a natural student, read much and retained that which he read. He wrote and conversed with much deliberation, choosing his words, and had the ability of choice self-expression. Dignified in appearance, solemn in mien and manner, erect in posture, always wearing full beard, and retaining a heavy growth of hair throughout life, he was a striking figure as he moved among others. His schoolroom opportunities were limited, but he developed a scholarly, analytical mind, and made good use of it. He planned ahead for every move, and though outspokenly pessimistic as to the outcome of most everything, he seldom "miss-fired" on his calculations. By natural inclination and study, he became something of a scientist.

Intensity played a great part in the life of Adolphus Rees. He thought, spoke, and worked intensively. Along with the sternness in







discipline and austerity of practice, he was tender as a woman in the sick room, and due to a scientific trend of mind understood the workings of the physical body and the application of medicines and other methods of relief. He was in reality most tender hearted and withal his rigidity of nature, was often moved to tears when occasion prompted such display of emotion. Unless aroused or provoked he had a quality of reserve; thought deeply and analyzed carefully; truly exemplifying that "still water runs deep." While the subject of this important factor in THE HOUSE OF REES was a strict, stern and exacting parent, he provided bounteously for those of his household, offering them all available advantages of education and culture that were possible in the era in which he lived. His rigid exaction of those about him was not the end and aim of life to him, but was because of his love and concern for his children and thier ultimate welfare, and, though seldom expressed in words, his affection was deep seated, and knew no bounds. He believed in the principle that obedience precedes being placed in command, as it is a well known practice in army training that a raw recruit is never promoted to a position of authority until he has learned how to obey. Adolphus Rees exacted of those under him full obedience, and to the letter of his commands.

While in Ranger Camp he wrote many letters to his fiancée, Lucy Ann Nowlin, which were literary gems, perfect in penmanship and written in typical Southern gentleman style. Quoting from one: "I have your father's consent to our marriage, and will get a furlough early in December when we will be married." The only piece of jewelry he ever gave Lucy was his bridal present of a very expensive, solid gold breast pin or brooch which she wore almost constantly until her last day on earth.

A lump of gold was given Lucy by a cousin, a returned 49er, and Adolphus had it fashioned into two small unalloyed gold rings. As use and time wore them thin, she had the two made into one, which she wore always.

He was a gentleman of the old school, taught his children to have a respectful attitude toward their elders, the school, the ministry and Diety. He was a devoted parent, a lenient and devoted grandparent, growing less stern as he faced the West.

D. A. Rees prospered always, being of a most conservative nature, and built a comfortable estate in spite of pioneering hardships and Indian depredations which brought heavy losses in his valuable horses. Most of his old home farm has passed into other hands since his demise; much of it is now improved as suburban homes, adjacent to Kerrville; few of his descendants live in Kerr County at the present time, but the name of Adolphus Rees is indelibly written into the history of Southwest Texas. He died in 1901, and was laid to rest with Masonic honors by the Kerrville Lodge of which he was a charter member.



## THE INVINCIBLE EIGHT—Continued

The Life of an Adoring and Adorable Person—Mrs. D. A. Rees.



LUCY REES

LUCY ANN (NOWLIN) REES (1848-1929) became the wife of D. A. Rees December 3, 1863, when she was a winsome girl of sixteen years; the marriage ceremony was performed by Judge J. M. Starkey. Trained in the ways of the frontier she and Adolphus at once set about to build a home in the undeveloped West Texas Country. The issue of this couple was ten children, one son dieing at two years old, but six sons, a foster son, and three daughters were reared to maturity.

Mrs. Lucy Rees was nee Nowlin. Reference to that fine old family name finds appropriate place in this biographical sketch.

The nativity of Nowlin is distinctly Irish. Naullain, the first, or original of Nowlin, is mentioned as being the hundredth generation of Irish Chronology, then O'Naullain, the 'O' signifying in Gaelic "the son of". This was corrupted to O'Nolan, then O'Nowlan, Nowlan, and in Virginia (1700) the name became Nowlin. This latter version or spelling has held without change in America for almost two and a half centuries.

The ancestry traces from Daniel and his son Patrick Nowlan (both in Ireland), then Patrick's son John Nowlan (also of Ireland) had a son James who migrated to America, 1700, establishing himself in Pittsylvania County, Virginia, as James Nowlin. He thus became the forebear and founder of the large lineage of Nowlins in this country. Next in line we find his son James, referred to as "James the carpenter," then Bryan







Ward Nowlin, Richard Wade Nowlin, Dr. James Crispin Nowlin (1817-1898) and his daughter, Lucy, who became Mrs. D. A. Rees. Her Nowlin lineal descent may easily be followed down to her great, great-grandchildren—in all thirteen generations.

Bryan W. Nowlin, mentioned above, married Lucy Wade, who was born about two hundred years ago, in Virginia. The name Lucy was thus injected into the line and appears scores of times in the numerous subdivisions of the family, down to the present and sixth generation from the original Lucy Wade Nowlin.

Lucy Nowlin was born near Corinth, Miss., Feb. 28, 1848. Her mother was nee Ann Eliza Johnston, her father, Dr. James Crispin Nowlin, a long-time resident near Center Point, Texas, on a farm now occupied by a son, Henry Nowlin. Lucy, with her father, went from Corinth in 1852 to near Kansas City, Mo. Another move was 1856 to Texas by wagon, Dr. Nowlin bringing several hundred fine horses driven by himself and negro slaves. The eight-year-old girl, Lucy, already an expert on a horse, assisted in bringing the herd through. She was most adept with scissors and needle, making her husband's clothing, complete suits and all, until his death, also suits and other clothing for her sons until they reached the age when they preferred to blossom out in "store-bought" clothes.

The wedding of Adolphus and Lucy was a gala affair in the Dr. Nowlin home. A dinner was prepared by the negroes and the feast enjoyed by the wedding guests would have put to shame a modern banquet. For a wedding dress the petite Lucy wore an elegant gown of rare material made over from her own mother's nuptial trousseau.

Mrs. Lucy Rees was of the kindly, affectionate and lovable sort. She was cheerful, friendly and neighborly, often ministering to the sick of the community. Her father was a physician, as was her oldest son, and she had far above the average knowledge of such matters. Her hands cooled many a fevered brow and eased the suffering of the afflicted. She was thrifty, frugal, a tireless worker, thus fitting into her husband's plans, of which she was an important part. With six growing, hungry boys to plan and prepare meals for, and with an open house for relatives and friends who constantly visited, she, like her sister-in-law, knew how to load a dining table with tempting viands. At canning, preserving and salting down, she was an artist. With butter, eggs, chickens, ducks and turkeys she provided family and guests bountifully, and due to her thriftiness added no small income to the family purse by marketing the excess of those items. She was an expert horsewoman and rode much until she was well along in years. Also a good swimmer, enjoying that diversion immensely until past seventy years old. She was a good marksman with rifle or shot gun, often bringing down a hawk, with never a miss, and predatory wild animals fell victims of her accurate aim.

She, perhaps more than any others, enjoyed having young folks around her and associating with them. She was a sort of clearing house



or their "troubles" and possessed an understanding mind and heart for all of such. A nephew says, "I went to Aunt Lucy even more freely than to my own parents with boyish and 'teen-age problems. She never turned a deaf ear, but seemed to understand as she heard me through. I always felt like a 'million dollars' when she kissed away my tears, or reassured me and sent me happily on my way."

Her love for and faith in her family, other relatives and friends was intense and boundless. In her later years she kept in close touch with acts of kindness, constantly knitting articles of wearing apparel and giving them to those whom she adored. Mrs. Rees had an amazing memory of names, days, dates and events, and could have dictated a history of the entire connection without reference to written record.

Hers was an abiding, undisturbed faith in all things Heavenly and Eternal. Doubt of such things never entered her mind for a moment. She lived each day as though it might be her last, trustfully and happily. Cheerful and happy of nature, she wanted all around her to have a good time as she had, yet she was stern and uncompromising when principle was in question. When her heavy home duties would permit she would be found on Sunday morning in her Methodist church pew, devout, worshipful, serene.

In 1929 when she reached the age of eighty-one, Aunt Lucy Rees, after so many, went to sleep to awaken in a better and everlasting world. As an ideal wife, mother, aunt, and friend, she, indeed, contributed greatly to THE HOUSE OF REES.

"She lived for others' happiness  
Their hearts to cheer, to soothe and bless."

The mortal remains of Adolphus and Lucy Rees are in Glen Rest Cemetery at Kerrville, Texas.





## THE INVINCIBLE EIGHT—Continued

A Strong and Wholesome Character, Was Mrs. J. M. Starkey.



MARTHA STARKEY

MARTHA ADELINE (REES) STARKEY (1834-1905). The third child to brighten the home of John and Henrietta Rees, was a girl, Martha, who began her tenure in THE HOUSE OF REES at Purdy, Tennessee, February 16, 1834. She inherited the same strong characteristics from her parents as possessed by her brothers, and though tender and feminine as became her sex, as she grew up, she was preparing mind, soul and body for a strenuous future life, calling for the utmost of courage, stamina, and at times physical endurance equal to that of a man. She never hesitated or faltered, but shouldered and carried her part along with her sturdy brothers, and continued to do so when she later met and married James M. Starkey, 1860, much of whose previous life had been spent in pioneering and trail-blazing.

Martha Rees seemed to some extent to be a composite of the marked characteristics of her three brothers, possessing much of the tireless energy and ambition of Sidney, the studiousness, dignity and solemnity of Adolphus, and the courage and kindly spirit of her younger brother, Alonzo.

In common with others of that time, her school room opportunities were limited, but perhaps more than was accorded her brothers, and she made the most of it. She had a brilliant mind and continued to improve





it by constant reading and study of the better texts throughout her life. Of a deep religious nature she pursued that thought and practice daily. In the opinion of many she was the founder and mother of Methodism in the country where she spent her adult life, organizing and superintending Sunday Schools, teaching the advanced or Bible classes. Her home was the temporary parsonage for circuit-riding Methodist preachers, and open to all of the cloth who availed themselves of her hospitality upon many occasions. She gave to the church liberally of her time and thought, and contributed her "quarterage" and other generous donations to the point of sacrifice. She was orthodox in belief, adamant in principle and unswerving in practice. Her church and religion were as much a part of her daily life as the air she breathed. She accepted the Holy Bible literally, taught and practiced accordingly. The way of life was as clear and plain to her as a paved, modern highway, from which she never strayed and would brook no varying upon the part of others. Kindly, considerate, generous with others when in need of spiritual counsel or daily bread, she held high the tenets of law, church, Christianity and right living, almost to the point of intolerance. A part of this may have been due to early church affiliation with the Cumberland Presbyterian denomination, noted for strictness in following the catechism. Her father was originally Lutheran, her mother Methodist, but the Cumberland Presbyterians predominated at Purdy, Tennessee, so naturally they joined and attended. Upon arrival in West Texas, Mother Henrietta Rees gladly took her family into her first-love church (the Methodist) as with characteristic trend the Methodist circuit rider was the first Protestant who pressed his Cause against frontier dangers.

With all the rigidity of her beliefs and her strict mode of life, Martha (Rees) Starkey was a highly respected and greatly beloved woman. Her thirty-two nieces and nephews adored her as they did their own mothers. A wide circle of neighbors and friends loved her and were righteously influenced by her exemplary life.

One niece said of her: "I always liked to visit in Aunt Martha's home. She was so genuine and sensible. Her example was always sufficient, without spoken words, to inspire me."

Another: "One of the high spots of my life as a little girl was to be permitted to sit by Aunt Martha at the dinner table or in church, and I literally swelled with pride when she would introduce me as her niece." This niece added: "In later years she was equally interested in, and attentive to my own children."

Yet another speaks reminiscently of her peach jam and preserves (the Starkeys had a large orchard) and particularly of her quince preserves, served only on rare occasions, as the best in the land. Also of her mitless jar of tea cakes, always sugar coated.

Martha was widowed by the death of her husband, James M. Starkey, in 1891, at a time when her oldest child, a daughter, had finished her education, but three sons remained to educate and guide through the





turbulent and character forming age. This she did with resolute self-sacrifice. She was a good manager, and was possessed of a level business head.

Her oldest child and only daughter who was with her more than any one else, and who tenderly cared for her in her lingering final illness, has vivid memories of her stalwart uncompromising character and of her deeds of heroism. In part the daughter wrote:

"Dick, the little black pony, would often be saddled for her visit to neighbors in distress or sickness. The hungry were never turned away. A child elicited her special interest and one little girl, now a capable mother, because of her need was repeatedly befriended and encouraged. This young woman says: 'If there is any worth or merit in my life, I owe it all to Mrs. Starkey.' To be sure her own family was her very first care. She was anxious that each should develop a well rounded character of Christian citizenship, and if we have missed the way the fault is not mother's. She loved the old songs and frequently sang about her home work. Around her doors grew vines and shrubs her busy hands had planted and nurtured.

"Supplies of sugar, salt, coffee, meal, flour had to be procured from a distant market with ox wagon, that necessitated our father's absence for weeks, and this situation doubled her load of anxiety for his safety as well as home affairs. At night her slumbers were often disturbed by the howl of a hungry wolf or the scream of a ferocious panther, but there she stayed, bravely combatting fears, anxieties and adversities with no thought of giving up.

"I remember one afternoon, "continues the daughter," returning from school (two miles) facing an angry cloud in the northwest with fiery tongues of lightning and peals of thunder, certain harbingers of danger, while I rode at good speed to escape. There stood mother anxious and distressed holding the gate wide open, while hail stones as large as hen's eggs were beginning to pound. When these exigencies arose, or when these calamities came, she stood sharing the consequences bravely, trying to overcome.

"No mother of today has any conception of her pioneer tasks and responsibilities. From week to week, from year to year, there she stayed and stood bravely, loyally spending her life helping to lift the burdens that meant so much for the needs of her friends, neighbors and family. And yet, in her last hours she said: 'Twas all a pleasure.'" (By Alice Starkey).

The youngest son of Mrs. Starkey recalls that one cold wintry morning the news was flashed that a dangerous and unruly character of the community had shot down and seriously wounded a defenseless and peace-loving elderly neighbor, and tried to wipe out the entire family by pumping bullets through the door from his repeating rifle. Another member of the family got in a shot, mortally wounding the murderous wretch, who





had fled the scene to the river bottoms nearby. How badly he was wounded was not known at that hour and he was thought to be lurking in the shadows, preparing to renew the attack.

The son, then a strapping young fellow in his late teens, possessed of more daring than discretion, made ready to grab a rifle and dash to the scene a half mile away. The wise mother admonished him to lay the gun aside and said: "We must, of course, help our distressed neighbors and wounded friend, but leave your gun; it will be of little value, as it would only further infuriate the killer, and he would have the drop on you from his hiding place. Come!" said she, "I shall go with you, because he (naming the villain) will never shoot at me."

We walked or ran the distance, she taking full charge of the disordered household, then in shambles of blood and smell of smoking guns, made the dieing old man more comfortable, spoke to him of his soul's preparedness, received an assuring reply, quieted the family, and then led the way to the river bottoms where evidence was found that the killer had with difficulty mounted his horse and ridden away.

Martha Starkey had no fear, limitless courage, and abundant faith. To this day, the writer does not believe that even the wounded and maddened criminal would have aimed his rifle at her.

After rounding out a life of seventy-one years filled with adventure, danger, privation and pioneering hardship, it would seem fitting that her last days on earth should have been peaceful, restful. But it was her lot to exemplify that same fortitude that had been so much a part of her life, by patiently suffering to the end. For some three or four years before she laid down the cross she was an invalid, suffering great and constant pain. She bore this uncomplainingly, with staunchness and deep religious conviction, never doubting the end or thereafter. Surely when her sweet and brave spirit left the mortal body, there was a welcome awaiting her in Heaven.

"She who bore the cross unflinching  
Walking in God's chosen way."

Her death occurred April 26, 1905, and her remains were consigned to earth on the old Starkey homestead near Kerrville, Texas.

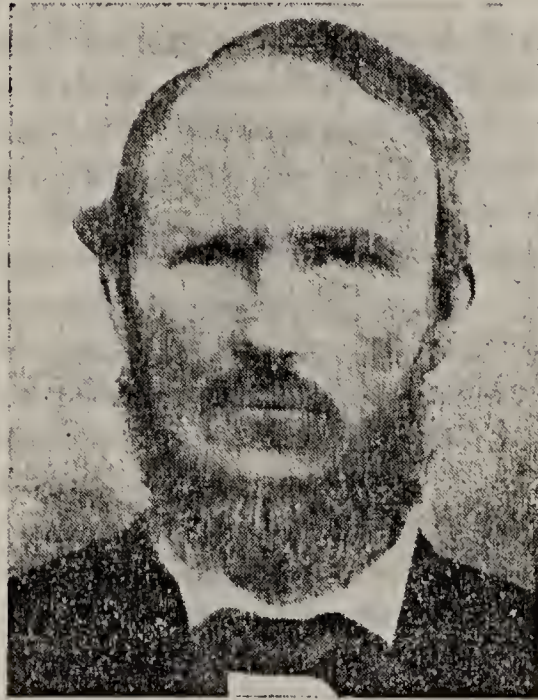
Martha and James M. Starkey were creditable members of THE HOUSE OF REES.





*THE INVINCIBLE EIGHT--Continued*

J. M. Starkey and His Interesting Life of Adventure



J. M. STARKEY

JAMES MONROE STARKEY (1820-1891). Though of another name, and different lineage, James M. Starkey became an allied member of THE HOUSE OF REES by marrying Martha Adeline Rees April 3, 1860. He first opened his eyes and looked out over the Cumberland Mountains at Sparta, White County, Tennessee, on February 6, 1820, and was named after the fifth President of the United States, originator of the historical "Monroe Doctrine," James Monroe. Six years later a brother, Lycurgus, was born, and the mother died. She was nee Burton. The father, Nathan Starkey, died a few years later. This lad, motherless at six and fatherless at eight or nine, was taken under the guidance of his Grandmother Nancy Burton for perhaps a few years, when his impatient and independent spirit caused him to launch out on his own. His brother was taken over by his Uncle Tom Burton, in another part of Tennessee.

As this story later develops, James M. left for California 1849 and in 1859 both Lycurgus and the uncle moved to Southern Missouri. The two brothers became forever separated, never hearing from or of each other during the remainder of their long lives. In 1933, eighty-four years after the separation, their descendants established identity and relationship, largely through the efforts of Rev. Lycurgus M. Starkey, Sedalia, Mo.,





grandson of the original Lycurgus. It seems most fitting that this illustrious grandson and grand-nephew of the two lost brothers should bear the names of both of them—Lycurgus Monroe Starkey—as he is, indeed, a worthy descendant of his sires, and has attained much in achievement as a minister of the Gospel, and as a representative member of numerous conferences of his Church. He is the one to whom the credit is due for uniting the hitherto lost lines of ancestry.

Much alone and with no one to record or hand down information, and due to a natural reticence to talk about himself, there is but little accurate history that can be written about James M. Starkey from birth until he became a grown young man. He followed various vocations, some of which were farming, clerking in a Nashville store, working in a nursery, and, it is said, taught school. Nothing authentic can now be written about his early schooling, but it was later evident that he must have had and availed himself of good opportunities in that respect. His penmanship was splendid, his diction in speaking, and his unexcelled choice of expressive words and formation of sentences when writing, as found in old letters, yet preserved, written by him when a young man, offer evidence of early educational advantages.

When twenty-three years old, 1843, he married his first wife, Elizabeth Young Ridley, at Mt. Pleasant, Maury County, Tennessee. A year later a daughter was born, and shortly thereafter his first wife passed away. The little daughter was nurtured in the home of her maternal grandparents, the George Ridleys. She yet lives, age ninety-four, near Georgetown, Texas. She is the widow of Thomas Foster Cocke, and reared a family of eight children.

Always interested in public affairs, J. M. Starkey served as Alderman, either in Mt. Pleasant or Columbia, Tennessee. In 1849 gold was discovered in California. The news traveled like wild fire and a great exodus of people from the eastern states began. Joining a party of eight young men at Mt. Pleasant these "Argonauts" set out by wagon and horseback February 26, 1849, for Fort Smith, Arkansas, a common meeting point for '49ers of the Southern States, where larger parties or companies of men were organized for mutual protection over the long and dangerous trek across an unsettled country to the virgin State of California. The personnel of the Mt. Pleasant adventurers was: Thomas Dunham, Wm. Lawhorn, Thomas Ridley, James M. Starkey, "Parson" Candlers, Thomas McMillan, Joseph Miller and James C. Cooper. They were called the "Invincible Eight." That trip was filled with adventure, risk, and exposure, and only the hardiest could undertake it. After seven months of difficult travel, crossing swollen streams and barren deserts, losing provisions and property, encountering wild animals of the forests and no less savage and treacherous Indians, and after undergoing a long list of most trying experiences in traveling over uncharted plains, mountains and forests, the little band of men with which J. M. Starkey had cast his lot in travel reached the Pacific Coast, tired, travel-worn, funds and belongings de-





pleted, strangers in a strange land, but fired with ambition and the lure of gold up in the mountainous "diggins," they set to work immediately. The "Invincible Eight" was reduced to seven, as Wm. Lawhorn died upon reaching the Mariposa Diggings, and was buried over what later proved to be a veritable mountain of gold. Fair success came from their efforts until driven from the mountains by rain and snow, Mr. Starkey and a partner Tom Dunham set up an eating house in a tent at Stockton. The winds came, demolished the place and the project was abandoned.

Five years of mining for gold, and intervening occupations were his lot, amid the wildest kind of existence, and among many of the tough element. Gambling, drinking, and carousing was the order of the day. Many breath-taking experiences were his, including an attack by a wounded grizzly bear, his life being saved by his hunting partner (a man named Jones, from Arkansas) who shot the ferocious animal while holding the victim in his murderous embrace, clawing and biting. He carried the scars of this conflict to his grave.

James M. Starkey, Jones of Arkansas, and Joe Miller of the original Mt. Pleasant party engaged in hunting as a business to some extent, furnishing deer, bear and elk meat to miners at from seventy-five cents to a dollar per pound. High cost of living was a problem even in that era, though the hunters could hardly be accused of profiteering as their "costs" were heavy and much time and hazard were required on each hunting trip.

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Author's Note: In my extensive research for early history of my father, James M. Starkey, I was fortunate in locating two daughters of James C. Cooper, one of the Tennessee to California Invincible Eight, Mrs. Annie C. Burton and Mrs. Percy S. Chandler, who have co-operated in reconstructing the 1849 gold rush experiences. Mrs. Burton wrote a pamphlet, "Stories of a Forty-Niner," 1906, which is the revelation of an amazing memory, as the stories were told by her father when she was a young girl, and written from memory fourteen years later. My father's name appears frequently; many personal incidents are related, all of which coincide with startling similarity with the stories as told to his children by James M. Starkey.—E.S.

Out of this California gold mining and wild environment where many succumbed to the recklessness, outlawry and degradation on every side, James M. Starkey emerged unscathed in his heart and mind. The same serene, sane and clear thinking man that characterized his whole life.

He strapped his modest stake of gold around his sturdy body, took ship to the Isthmus of Panama, then by rail and water to New Orleans, then by stage to the East line of Texas, where he bought a Mexican pony and in 1854 rode to the present Kerr County which was to be the scene of his future activities. With scant equipment he began to clear some land which he farmed. Riving shingles by hand offered about the only means of making money. That he did. He married Martha Rees, 1860





settled on the Starkey farm and lived there always. Most of the original section of land is yet owned by Starkey descendants.

In 1866 he, with two partners, and no money capital, but with "a million dollars" worth of energy, ambition and integrity, launched the first saw-mill on the upper Guadalupe River, the site being on the old Starkey home two miles northwest of Kerrville. Later the trio built another saw-mill, combining the business of grinding corn and wheat, at Center Point, Texas. Floods, and practically every known disaster to such an enterprise, occurred. Enough to have broken the hearts, backs and slim purses of most men, but not of such courageous men as James M. Starkey, Alonzo Rees and Miles Lowrance. They believed that, "Our greatest glory is not in the never falling, but in rising every time we fall."

Later Mr. Starkey took over the ownership of the saw-mill on his farm, worked hard between its operation and his farming and stock-raising interests and prospered. In 1872 a flood washed his saw-mill plant completely away. This came at the time when he was recuperating from a long spell of typhoid fever, and suffering from the blow of having been defrauded out of a considerable sum of money in a cattle venture by a partner whom he had trusted implicitly. Again, that was enough to put a man down and out, but not J. M. Starkey. He was down a bit, but far from out. "His pride made him cover his bleeding heart and swear there was no wound." He bent his back to this apparently impossible load, aided and abetted by his wife, Martha (Rees) Starkey, who never knew defeat, and started all over again. When in 1849 he with seven other young adventurers went from Tennessee to the gold fields of California, they were known as "The Invincible Eight." He became a member of another Invincible Eight when he joined THE HOUSE OF REES.

He was honored by his fellow citizens many times by holding public office, was elected the first assessor and tax-collector of Kerr County, foreman of its first grand jury, was Chief Justice (County Judge) of the county, school trustee for years, and presided over elections numerous times. He was a prodigious reader, possessed a clear thinking mind, of judicial temperament, kindly and deeply interested in the welfare of his family, neighbors and friends, aspired that his daughter and sons should have full educational advantages and become honorable citizens. While not a deeply religious man, as measured by church activities, he did his part by contribution and was unquestionably a man of highest moral principles, and interested himself in promoting that sentiment and practice in his community. His was a generous and confiding disposition, responsive to the demands of humanity. He repeatedly acted as an arbitrator in disputes between neighbors, and his decisions of equity and justice were accepted as "Law and Gospel," and seldom questioned.

J. M. Starkey was always interested in public affairs, politically and otherwise. He had heard some of Tennessee's great stump speakers, during the days when stump speaking was largely the means of campaigning. He had listened as a young man to James K. Polk, Andrew Johnson, Gov-





ernor Jones of Tennessee and others. Was a Henry Clay Whig back in Tennessee but the Civil War issues made Democrats of most Southerners and his later years were spent as a Democratic worker. He was County Chairman of Kerr County, often presided over political conventions in Kerr County and in the Legislative District in which Kerr was located. His oldest son has had the same distinction for many years. He took his sons to hear the speeches of Congressional aspirants and candidates for other political positions. He often questioned his sons as to public affairs and rebuked them sharply if they showed too much ignorance of these matters. He was always interested in public morals and believed it was the duty of good citizens to take an interest in political questions and the election of officials.

Five children were born to James M. and Martha Starkey, four of whom yet survive. His second child, a son named Jones Starkey (named after the man who rescued him from the clutches of the bear) met with an unfortunate fatal accident on his sixth birthday. His death was tragic indeed. It was the old story of a rusty, "unloaded" pistol in the hands of an older playmate, fired point blank into the body of the unsuspecting child. With hearts torn and bleeding the sorrowing parents laid his once vivacious, youthful body away in the family burying ground near the home. But with it the father could not at once bury his resentment toward the tragic, though accidental and unintentional, slaying of his little boy, his first born son. The fresh mound of earth served to remind and reopen the wound in his heart, each day. It was only after much counsel with his wife, and with others in whom he confided, and after communion with his God, that he dismissed the rankling bitterness from his soul, forgave, and became reconciled. In evidence of the struggle and decision, he wrote a letter to a brother-in-law, in which he bravely resigned himself to fate. The letter, penned in blood, blotted with tears, and written from his heart, which gave evidence of the fierce battle within, and the magnanimous decision, is said to be one of the finest of its kind ever written.

After an adventurous and worthwhile life, contributing much to THE HOUSE OF REES, this noble man and grand character, following a lingering illness, peacefully slept away April 30, 1891. His body was buried with Masonic honors in the private cemetery on the farm that he established near Kerrville, Texas.

Author's note: If it appears that I have enlarged unduly upon the history of James Monroe Starkey, as compared to other, and equally important, members of THE HOUSE OF REES, I trust I may have your indulgence, as he was my father, and my hero. You will understand, I am sure.—E.S.





## THE INVINCIBLE EIGHT—Continued

### Alonzo Rees the Soldier—a Combination of Courage and Serenity



ALONZO REES

ALONZO REES (1837-1919). The third son and fourth child of John and Henrietta Rees first saw the light of day at Purdy, Tennessee, September 6, 1837. He was initiated into THE HOUSE OF REES by being christened Peter Osmond Alonzo Rees, but later in life decided that to be entirely too much name to carry so he simplified matters by dropping Peter Osmond and retaining Alonzo. Left fatherless at five, Alonzo had a vivid recollection and poignant memories all his eighty-two years of life of the hardships and privations endured by his mother and her children while they yet remained in Tennessee, during the tedious trip to Texas in 1851, the stay in DeWitt County and the added dangers to their very lives after the family moved to the Medina River Country, then fearing attacks by Indians they fled to the present Kerr County, Texas, where more people had settled, in the belief that there was safety in numbers.

While his early life and experiences were similar to other pioneers and to those of his brothers, his life leaned more to the spectacular. Not from any plan or desire of his own, but due to the exigencies of the time and his willingness to recognize and meet duty. He was by nature a quiet, retiring sort of man. Quiet of speech and nothing about this kindly, humane soul ever suggested a combative nature. Yet fate seems to have





decreed that he was to witness and participate in much of fight and warfare.

On the streets of Purdy, Tennessee, the then five year old lad remembered seeing many fights between the notorious and bloody-handed Freeling Hurst and others. When he landed in the Bandera Country, as a lad, it was necessary that he go armed in protection against wild animals and Indians. In the absence of his two older brothers the task fell upon him to protect his aging mother and his only sister against the ravages of Red-skins, at their humble home and during a perilous ox-team flight through Bandera Pass, the trap and scene of so many murderous attacks.

As a mere youth he became a Ranger and Minute Man, defending the increasing settlers against the incursions of the Red Man, and the harrassing by white outlaws, possibly the greater menace. The boy was of a slender but athletic build, a good rider, quick and accurate with his gun, making him a valuable asset in that region. At age twenty-three he was elected Sheriff of Kerr County—perhaps the youngest on record—but declined the honor, choosing Ranger Service, where his kind was in greater need.

When but twenty-five years old he commanded a squad of men who did frontier protection for some time, engaging in hand to hand conflicts with Indians. The Guardian Angel must have hovered near, as Alonzo was never injured in any of the battles. Later he was dispatched to the Coast country of Texas to do service in the Confederate Army, having received his training as a soldier in camps near Austin. He made an ideal soldier, was made first lieutenant and later promoted to the office of Captain. He was in full command of his company much of the time, being the only commissioned officer present. There is no doubt but that Captain Alonzo Rees acquitted himself with distinction and was most valorous in every duty and emergency during the first thirty years of his "fighting" life. Much of his interesting frontier and war life will forever remain unrecorded, as inadequate records were kept and his innate modesty forbade his talking about himself or his achievements.

When the War Between the States was over, Alonzo Rees returned to his people in Kerr County, Texas, and engaged in saw-milling, farming and ranching. But again the scepter of rigid authority fell upon this young man and placid soul, when in 1866 he was appointed sheriff of Kerr County, by Jack Hamilton, then Provisional Governor. He was slender, over six feet tall, stood straight as an arrow, moved with military bearing, and had natural command over men. His escapades and encounters, not only with Indians, and soldiers in training, but with that certain rough and lawless element that is invariably found in any frontier country were undoubtedly countless, yet he dominated every situation, not by great physical strength or bravado for he was of rather frail physique and quiet of tongue when compared to other western types, but by being right, having a clear conscience, a keen, quick analytical mind, a clear eye, and having no acquaintance with the word or attitude of fear. The only





casualty that ever befell Alonzo with lasting results was suffered while running a cotton gin. His right forefinger was injured in such manner that it remained stiff ever afterward.

After thirty-one years of adventurous life, which were crowded with enough of life's experiences and achievements for a man twice his age, Alonzo married Ellen Brown in 1868, engaged in milling, farming, stock raising, threshing, mercantile business, and banking. Twelve children were born, ten of whom lived to maturity, nine of whom yet survive.

Alonzo Rees was deeply but quietly religious, was Superintendent of the Center Point Methodist Sunday School for twenty-five consecutive years, and was lay delegate to the Annual Conferences of that great church for sixteen years, also attended as Delegate to the General Conference of Southern Methodism in 1897, held in Tennessee. He served as Commissioner of Kerr County for sixteen years. Ranching and farming were followed by Alonzo all his life, yet he engaged in the mill and cotton gin business, the mercantile business, was president of a bank at Center Point, and for many years ran a horse power threshing machine in partnership with Capt. Neal Caldwell, doing threshing for many farmers up and down the Guadalupe River valley.

Being a good conversationalist and of pleasing manner, his visits were particularly enjoyed by nephews and neices. He once visited his birthplace, Purdy, Tennessee, and soon thereafter visited in the Dolph Rees home. A niece remembers his saying, "Dolphus, do you know, the bluffs don't look half as high, or the creek half as wide or deep, as they did in our childhood." The two brothers enjoyed a hearty laugh.

A habit of his, upon retiring for the night, was to take a kerosene lamp, place it on a chair and read a while. Another was to take a hot smoothing iron and place it at his feet in cold weather. His brother, Adolphus, mildly reproached him, saying that it was a bad habit. With a chuckle, Alonzo replied, "Yes, but it's lots of pleasure to me."

His early school-room advantages were limited to a few months, yet he was a scholar, a prodigious reader, a good public speaker, and a remarkable writer, particularly of letters, many of which are yet preserved. He was at ease, and at home on every occasion, and was eminent for his valor, wisdom, abilities and piety. Alonzo Rees prospered, gave liberally to church and charity, most always had a cash balance, loaned sums to his kin and neighbors, built a substantial estate, reared a fine family, lived a "turbulent and serene" life, and simply continued his walk with God, when on January 26, 1919, he quietly slipped into the Great Beyond.





## THE INVINCIBLE EIGHT—Continued

Eighty-five Happy Years Allotted a Saintly Soul—Mrs. Alonzo Rees



ELLEN REES

ELEANOR ANN (BROWN) REES (1851-1937). She was a pretty brown-eyed baby, with pink toes and sweet disposition, Joshua Brown's bouncing baby girl, presented to him February 7, 1851. She went through all the trials and tribulations of measles, mumps, and whooping-cough (considered necessities those days) with the forbearance that was to be a dominant characteristic of hers all along the happy eighty-six years of her life.

Joshua Brown, native of Kentucky, was in reality Kerrville's first citizen. In fact, he with his shingle camp and a few associates comprised the town then named Brownsborough in his honor. In 1856 Kerr County was established, and Kerrville laid out, Brown donating the streets, a public square, and a block for a Methodist church, and insisted that the name of the town be Kerrsville, after his friend, James Kerr, of De Witt's Colony of the lower Guadalupe River. The "s" was later dropped and Kerrville adopted as the proper way to spell the name of the then small settlement, today a flourishing city of six thousand. The old Brown home and farm just below Kerrville is now the site of a Government hospital for World War Veterans, called Legion. Ellen lived on that farm all her girlhood life.





She must have been a pretty young maiden, this Eleanor Ann Brown of Kerr County, Texas, who caught the eye and heart of the young army captain, Alonzo Rees, just mustered out of service, who, though he fought in a lost cause, won a great and lasting victory when he led this seventeen year old beauty to the altar on January 16, 1868.

Alonzo's cash balance at the end of the Civil War was about fifty cents, and, perhaps he possessed but little more of this world's goods when he asked Ellen, "Will you be mine, for better or for worse?"

Nothing daunted, this lovely, courageous young girl, said, "Yes." Thus, a most important branch of THE HOUSE OF REES began. Their home was one of quietude, dignity, reverence, obedience, loyalty and love. She bore twelve children, two dieing in infancy, but the ten children she reared, plus an adopted son, (now a Methodist minister) will surely testify that Mrs. Alonzo Rees never raised her voice in anger, yet was in full command at all times, and was a model mother. Her method of discipline is not written in any books of "How to Rear Children" but she did it, quietly, sweetly, with results that speak eloquently.

To be in her presence was a blessing, a benediction. She was of the "Shouting Methodist" kind, and when she shouted, no listener ever doubted the sincerity of her true religion. She was patience personified, always spoke with appealing, modulated voice, and her invariable mannerism was a perfectly natural one of sincerity, frankness and tenderness. She fitted into the life that Alonzo was compelled to live, and was a great balance wheel to him. She never complained about the enormous work she had to do as the mother of four sons and six daughters; she simply and quietly did it. She seemed never to hurry, had time to linger and visit, yet did her full share of work as befell the pioneer woman and the mother of ten children whom she saw grow to maturity, well educated and married. One son died shortly after his marriage, but the other nine survive. Her grandchildren and great-grandchildren are legion, and rise up to call her blessed.

Ellen (Brown) Rees was a native Texan, born in Gonzales County, daughter of Joshua D. Brown, a San Jacinto veteran under Sam Houston, but spent practically all her life in Kerr County, through its formative period. A frontiers-woman always, witnessing much of the rough and seamy side of life she could, upon a moment's notice, have graced the salon of the most cultured. At all times and in all places she was just her natural, sweet self, and unconsciously exerted a quieting and refining influence upon those in her presence.

"A queenly woman, statuesque and grand,  
Royal in manners, courteous in command,  
Of reverential presence, and her face  
Radiant fair beaming with hope and grace;  
Her valiant life one long sweet symphony  
Of duty, love, and soulful harmony."



Ellen was the last of the original eight to go, of the four couples, three Rees and one Starkey, who established THE HOUSE OF REES and prepared the way for a large number of allied families. That seemed to be fitting, as she was the youngest, and was blessed with a few more years of life than any of her predecessors. In her eighty-six years of life she witnessed the old order yield to the new with perfect complacency.

Among many others, a personal reminiscence of this dear old Aunt seems to fit in. Some few years ago, when she was past eighty years old, the writer was visiting in Kerr County. He never missed driving by for an hour's chat with his Aunt Ellen. This time she was busily engaged in doing her week's washing. She had no apology for being caught working, but was profuse with apology for "the way I look." Upon being assured that she looked all right, and upon being mildly chided for doing her own laundry (not an economic necessity) she said with characteristic sweetness and firmness, "I have been sending it out to a washer-woman, but when the clothes came back they didn't smell clean." Wasn't that just like her?

A nephew wrote at the time of her death, "Aunt Ellen's passing tugs at the heart." And so it did to her hundreds of living kin, and to countless others who had known her during her long and beautiful life. Who shall say that Aunt Ellen did not live the most as well as the longest?

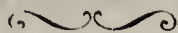
Though in comfortable circumstances, financially, to the last, she chose to keep busy, and besides attending to household duties she made a great many rugs. Her hands were not the kind to be idle. On February 16, 1937, she breathed her last, and went singing into her Eternal Home. Her remains rest beside Alonzo at Center Point, Texas.



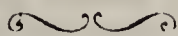


# THE HOUSE OF REFS

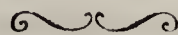
## WITH ALLIED FAMILIES



### VALEDICTORY



*"Their names are written on history's scroll,  
To live for time while centuries roll."*



### THE INVINCIBLE EIGHT, CONCLUDED

A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches.

A good heredity from a clean, upright ancestry is more to be desired than all the titles, honors, and wealth that earth can bestow.—Luther Burbank.

A man is the sum of his own life history plus that of his ancestors. To a remarkable extent, certain traits of character and certain capabilities run in a family. Oftentimes, therefore, the more one knows about those who have gone before, about their lives, their characters, and their accomplishments, the better he can understand himself and the better he can adapt himself to the complexities of modern living.

It is not good to live too much in the past; yet it is not proper to forget it. One need not be an antiquarian to find sentimental warmth in touches of long ago. Beating hearts are better than granite monuments, but as a paradox: The heart may be better and richer because of the monument.

From a discourse in commemoration of the first settlement of New England, delivered by Daniel Webster, at Plymouth, Massachusetts, December 22, 1820: "A moral and philosophical respect for our ancestors elevates the character and improves the heart. Next to the sense of religious duty and moral feeling, I hardly know what should bear with stronger obligation of a liberal and enlightened mind, than a consciousness of alliance with excellence which has departed."





A humorous slant: When the beloved and famous Will Rogers was speaking before an assembly of people, descendants of those who came over in the Mayflower and landed at Plymouth Rock, he cleverly said, "My people met the boat."

While perhaps none of our forebears met the boat, there is now a known descendant (the eleventh) of John Alden who came over on the Mayflower. She is ten years old and a strain of THE HOUSE OF REES blood courses through her veins.

Quoting from The San Antonio Express, October 10, 1915, "The Rees brothers and the sisters who first saw Texas in January, 1852, were of that sturdy stock who invariably bring things to pass. They were among the most valuable contributions ever made by the old states to the Southwest, and among their sons and daughters are those to whom our dear old Texas may ever point with pride."

Fortunate is the man who can feel proud of his ancestry. Such should arouse personal pride which is a valuable characteristic and an asset. The ancestry of this great Rees family is one of Honor, Courage and Invincibility. Could there be a greater heritage?

Physical inheritance of size, strength, temperament and appearance are common in lineal descents, but of greater importance is the "stock" of which one is born. Surely those of THE HOUSE OF REES realize and appreciate the fact that we had a good start, insofar as characteristic ancestral heritage is concerned. That alone will not suffice unto a successful and well-rounded life. The heritage we have is great, but it places a corresponding responsibility upon each descendant. Laurels are not to be rested upon. They should be framed and hung upon the wall. Achievements should be none else than inspirations to greater achievements. We have no moral right to credit ourselves with past achievements of ancestry, and rest upon that credit. We may properly point with pride, but should constantly strive to sustain and uphold the good name. No people have a prouder lineage, no other depend less upon it. "It is indeed a desirable thing to be well descended, but this glory belongs to our ancestors."—Plutarch.

In description of the frontiersman, Theodore Roosevelt once wrote: "His eye must be true and quick, his hand steady and strong. His heart must never fail nor his head grow bewildered, whether he face brute and human foes, or the frowning strength of hostile nature, or the awful fear that grips those who are lost in trackless lands. Wearing toil and hardships shall be his; thirst and famine he shall face, and burning fever. Death shall come to greet him with poison-fang or poison-arrow, in shape of charging beast or scaly things that lurk in lake and river; it shall lie in wait for him among untrodden forests, in the swirl of waters, and in the blast of snow blizzards of thunder-shattered hurricane."

Such were the specifications of pioneers, else they did not long survive. Feats of prowess and deeds of heroism were daily routine in the lives of our forebears. They wrestled with problems of livelihood,



and protection of life itself, with characteristic stoicism. Physical strength and endurance were challenged to the utmost. It is well that the early members of this great Rees family began their task in the hardy vigor of their youth, and before the beat of the blood had grown sluggish in their veins.

In the preceding biographies, sketching the lives of the Invincible Eight, we have stressed the valorous deeds of the men; but without detracting in the least, the four women who stood valiantly and heroically by them are equally entitled to credit. The term "weaker sex" finds no place in their description. Women who pioneered in the outposts of civilization were brave souls!

It is hoped that sufficient of the life history of the original Invincible Eight who founded THE HOUSE OF REES has been accurately set forth in these pages, that we who followed and those yet to follow, may find inspiration, encouragement, precept and example, to guide and lead to higher moral living, saner lives, fire us with greater ambition to achieve, prepare us to bravely face adversity and to be modest and humble in success.

In their lives of hardship, tragedy, fortitude, heroism, romance and character, we have abundant proof that Sidney and Emily, Adolphus and Lucy, Martha and James, Alonzo and Ellen, contributed largely toward making this a better world in which to live. "Go thou, and do likewise."

--EDWIN STARKEY.







FOUR PIONEER FAMILIES OF KERR COUNTY, TEXAS - CAME FROM TENNESSEE 1852 - 1854



1. JAMES M. STARKEY, 2. MRS. MARTHA STARKEY, 3. ALICE, 4. J. J. (JIM), 5. A. L. (CURG), 6. EDWIN. (PHOTO TAKEN IN 1902).



1. SIDNEY B. REES, 2. MRS. EMILY REES, 3. ADELIN, 4. JULIA, 5. JOHN, 6. FANNIE, 7. NELLIE, 8. JACK, 9. BOB, 10. ALICE, 11. ALBERT, 12. WALTER, 13. DOVIE, 14. IVY, 15. MAGGIE.

GRAND-  
MA  
REES



MRS.  
HENRI-  
ETTA  
REES  
-1800-  
1882



1. D. A. REES, 2. MRS. LUKY REES, 3. DR. A. CLAY REES, 4. HENRIETTA, 5. DAN, 6. JAMES C., 7. SID, 8. BETTIE, 9. DOLPH, 10. ERNEST, 11. MAY.



1. ALONZO REES, 2. MRS. ELLEN REES, 3. JOHN B., 4. ELLA, 5. ADELIN, 6. BROWNIE, 7. JOE, 8. LOUIE, 9. ETTA, 10. JANIE, 11. CHARLEY, 12. ABBIE.







## A RARE GROUP PICTURE

The unusual composite group picture, shown on the opposite page, was assembled and reproduced in 1936 by the author, and copies were sent to all living cousins. It seems appropriate to include a reproduction of the group in this publication. It is a proper part of THE HOUSE OF REES, as forty, of the forty-five people shown, once bore the surname Rees.

In the center we have the Mother of us all—Grandma Henrietta (Lowrance) Rees. The upper left hand group is that of the Starkey family, taken in 1902. The picture of J. M. Starkey is an inset, as he was not living at that time. Martha Starkey was in a state of invalidism, as her picture indicates.

The upper right is a group of fifteen souls; the parents, Sidney and Emily Rees, and their thirteen children--the largest family of the Rees connection. The photograph was taken early in 1906, so we are informed.

The Dolph and Lucy Rees family, in lower left corner, was taken in 1885 (estimate). The picture of Dr. Clay Rees (No. 3) is an inset, as he was away from home at the time. Obviously, the picture of May Rees (No. 11) was inserted, as she was not born until 1889.

There was no available group picture of the Alonzo and Ellen Rees family (lower right), so, individual photographs were rounded up and arranged in order of birth, and in accordance with their relative ages, as well as it could be done.

The grandmother, eight parents, and thirty-six first cousins are shown in this remarkable picture.



EXPLANATION  
of the  
GENEALOGICAL SECTION

The genealogical section which follows does not assume to be a history with personal comment of those mentioned, but rather it is a lineage chart of names and important dates of THE HOUSE OF REES AND ALLIED FAMILIES. If I have gone beyond that outline in some cases, and have ventured some personal comment, it is due to my fond recollection of some of the older set, or from information supplied by others. Much similar and appropriate comment could have been made as to others, but not included, as my memory slipped or the information was not submitted. Please know that such omissions mean no reflection upon them, as I hold each of my kin in high esteem and affection. Historical and eventual items of interest may yet be entered by others who desire to make THE HOUSE OF REES complete and continuous.

I have undertaken this self-imposed task with full knowledge of the many imperfections that may manifest themselves to those who read it. It is fittingly and historically appropriate that some one make a start toward unfolding and recording the history of those noble people, the Invincible Eight. And it is good to have a record of all descendants who are allied with THE HOUSE OF REES. It is hoped that this initial effort may serve as a basis for other and better family historians to improve upon, expand, and carry on the work. The memory of a common worthy ancestry and the ties of kindred bring us together as one grand family.

In the pages that follow will be found in chronological order, the lineal descent from each of the four couples, divided into four groups: The Sidney Rees Branch of THE HOUSE OF REES, The Adolphus Rees Branch, The Martha (Rees) Starkey Branch, and The Alonzo Rees Branch. For the sake of reference, Roman numerals are used to designate these four branches, I, II, III, and IV. The next generation (their children) are numbered, 1, 2, 3, etc. The grandchildren of the original four couples are indicated by use of capital letters, A, B, C, etc. The members of the next succeeding generation are set apart by small letters, a, b, c, etc. And their children are specified by using, aa, bb, cc, etc.

Spaces are left for recording future events, such as names and dates of birth, marriages and death. The dates and names given herein were carefully copied and proofed from letters and records submitted. If errors are found, correction should carefully be made in ink.—E. S.





GENEALOGICAL SECTION  
of  
THE HOUSE OF REES  
MEMBERS AND LINEAGES



THE FOUNDERS IN NORTH CAROLINA

JOHN AND HENRIETTA REES

John Rees (died 1842) and Henrietta (Lowrance) Rees (1800-1882) married Oct. 22, 1821, at Lincolntown, Lincoln County, North Carolina. Vardrey McBee, the Court Clerk, performed the marriage rites. John Rees was a farmer and furniture maker by trade. Most men of that day learned a trade. Moved to Tennessee, 1828. John died at Purdy, Tennessee, 1842. His birth date is fairly well established as 1794, by reference to an old will of that date. Henrietta Rees passed away, 1882, near Kerrville, Texas, on the old Starkey farm.

Children born to this couple in Tennessee were: (I) Sidney, (II) Adolphus, (III) Martha, (IV) Alonzo, (V) Alpheus, (Died in infancy).

The following pages record the descendants from the original couple, numbering four hundred eighty-five.





## THE SIDNEY REES BRANCH

- I. Sidney Benner Rees, born Oct. 22, 1829, Purdy, McNairy County, Tennessee. Died Dec. 8, 1909, Kerr County, Texas. Married March 15, 1860, to Emily Tedford, born Nov. 22, 1844, in West Tennessee. Died January 19, 1906. Bodies buried at Center Point, Kerr County, Texas. Thirteen children were born to this couple; all lived to maturity, and were married: (1) Adeline, (2) Julia, (3) John, (4) Fannie, (5) Nellie, (6) Jack, (7) Bob, (8) Alice, (9) Albert, (10) Walter, (11) Dovie, (12) Ivey, (13) Maggie.

1. Emily Adeline (Rees) Hodges, born Feb. 10, 1861, died Jan. 21, 1928, Kerr County, Texas. Married Oct. 15, 1878, to John Robert Hodges, born Dec. 2, 1853. Farmed always. His address, Center Point, Texas. He is (1938) the oldest living member of THE HOUSE OF REES. Bob and Adeline Hodges were the largest contributors of descendants, named in this record, including several great-grandchildren. Eight children:

A. Lenna (Hodges) McBryde, born September 14, 1879. Married May 23, 1900, to Andrew Douglas McBryde, born Sept. 30, 1876, in Wilcox Co., Texas. Address, Camp Verde, Texas. Six children were born, two dying in infancy.

a. Naomi (McBryde) Burney, born Feb. 17, 1901. Married March 20, 1922, to Delma Burney, born Oct. 16, 1889. Stock-farmer. Address, Camp Verde, Texas. Three children:

aa. Delma Carol Burney, born April 10, 1923.

bb. Eugene Burney, born Sept. 22, 1924.

cc. Gary Mac Burney, born Oct. 10, 1933.

dd. Victor Douglas Burney, born Sept. 9, 1937.

b. Carol Rankin McBryde, born Sept. 13, 1904. Married Oct. 2, 1933, to Cleo Bell Nowlin. Address, Kerrville, Texas. Two children:

aa. Nowlin Rankin McBryde, born July 20, 1935.

bb. Richard Clay McBryde, born April 24, 1936.

c. Obara (McBryde) Jones, born March 20, 1906. Married April 18, 1925, to Ransom D. Jones, born Nov. 29, 1900, in Bandera Co., Texas, Occupation, stock-farmer. Address, Kerrville, Texas. One child:

aa. Ransom Delaney Jones, born Feb. 22, 1930.

d. Marvin Booth McBryde, born Aug. 6, 1909. Married Effie Turner, Aug. 17, 1929. Address, Camp Verde, Texas. One child:

aa. Hermoine McBryde, born Nov. 8, 1931.

B. Willie Ridley (Hodges) Garrett, born June 29, 1881. Married Jan. 10, 1904, to William Maxie Garrett who died Oct. 5, 1929. Her address, Center Point, Texas. Six children:



- a. Othello Ferdinand Garrett, born March 15, 1905. Married Janet Harris, Feb. 25, 1932. She was born April 30, 1911. The couple lives, Del Rio, Texas, P. O. Box 984. Othello is Landscape Foreman, Texas Highway Department.
- b. Addie Lee (Garrett) Anderson, born Aug. 18, 1906. Married Jan. 4, 1936, to J. W. Anderson. Residence, Wilson, Texas. One child:
  - aa. Carl Michael Anderson, born April 1, 1937.
- c. Robert Marion Garrett, born Mar. 5, 1908.
- d. William Marrero Garrett, born June 6, 1910. Married Oct. 28, 1935, to Beatrice Hopkins. Present address, Crosby, Texas.
- e. Myra Bettye Garrett, born Oct. 1, 1913.
- f. Julia Maxine Garrett, born Sept. 22, 1925.
- C. Julia Isabella (Hodges) Mosty, born July 24, 1883. Married Nov. 4, 1908, to Lee Mosty, born Oct. 28, 1882, Lampasas, Texas. Address, Box 38, Center Point, Texas. Lee, with his brother, Harvey, of Kerrville, Texas, owns and operates the Mosty Brothers Nurseries, and cultivates over four hundred acres in Kerr County. Six children were born, two deceased a few hours after birth.
  - a. Robert Lee Mosty, born June 4, 1912.
  - b. Raymond Mosty, born March 27, 1914.
  - c. Charles Huling Mosty, born Dec. 24, 1918.
  - d. Harvey Reginald Mosty, born April 17, 1921. Died Aug. 16, 1937. Burial at Center Point.
- D. Margaret Lee Ann (Hodges) Mosty, born July 27, 1886. Married May 30, 1909, to Harvey Mosty, born Jan. 5, 1885, in Kansas City, Missouri. Engaged extensively in nursery business with his brother, Lee Mosty. Address of Harvey is Rt. 1, Kerrville, Texas. Three children:
  - a. Margaret (Mosty) McKnight, born Oct. 10, 1912. Married July 30, 1932, to James Oliver McKnight, born Sept. 29, 1911, at San Augustine, Texas. Is a landscape artist and tree surgeon. Address, Kerrville, Texas. One child:
    - aa. Joyce Ann McKnight, born Aug. 29, 1937.
  - b. Julia Frances Mosty, born June 10, 1924.
  - c. Marie Annaletta Mosty, born Sept. 1, 1927.
- E. Betty (Hodges) Thomas, born April 16, 1889. Married Oct. 24, 1918, to William Overton Thomas, who was born July 14, 1878, in Paris, Texas. Address, P. O. Box 385, Taft, Texas. Farmer. Three children:
  - a. Mary Virginia Thomas, born Nov. 7, 1920.
  - b. Cody Overton Thomas, born July 15, 1922.
  - c. Ruth LaNelle Thomas, born April 26, 1926.
- F. Ernest Brewer Hodges, born Dec. 10, 1891. Married Sept. 6, 1919, to Alice Corder, born Feb. 6, 1900. Address, Center Point, Texas. Farmer. Four children:
  - a. Dorothy Alice Hodges, born April 2, 1921. Graduate, Draughon's Business College, San Antonio. Residence, Center Point.





- b. Eloise Hodges, born Jan. 1, 1924.
  - c. Mildred La Verne Hodges, born March 20, 1923.
  - d. Betty Lee Hodges, born July 27, 1930.
- G. Nell Frances (Hodges) Fuller, born May 19, 1895. Present address, 710 Winnebags Street, Corpus Christi, Texas. Married Jan. 15, 1918, to Major Hurley Edward Fuller. One child:
- a. Hurley Edward Fuller, Jr., born Dec. 4, 1918.
- H. Lucy Opal (Hodges) Hamlyn, born May 8, 1893. Married Oct. 10, 1920, to John Hamlyn, born March 8, 1901. Is radio technician. Address, Box 724, Center Point, Texas. Five children:
- a. Mary Louise Hamlyn, born Sept. 10, 1921.
  - b. John Harold Hamlyn, born March 25, 1923.
  - c. Robert Ernest Hamlyn, born Oct. 13, 1924.
  - d. Jane Adeline Hamlyn, born March 31, 1929.
  - e. Hugh Walter Hamlyn, born July 18, 1934.
2. Julia Henrietta (Rees) McDonald, born Aug. 7, 1862, in Kerr County, Texas. Married Oct. 17, 1882, to William Almer McDonald, born Aug. 3, 1856, Weakly Co., Tennessee. He died April 7, 1903, and was buried at Center Point, Texas. Julia's Address, Center Point, Texas. Five children:
- A. Mittie McDonald, born Aug. 3, 1885. Died May 6, 1886.
- B. Viola Gertrude (McDonald) Powell (Ola), born Jan. 31, 1887. Married Dec. 3, 1905, to Clyde Alfred Powell, born April 25, 1884. Ranch work. Present address, Center Point, Texas. Eight children:
- a. Juanita Alyma (Powell) Beaver (Nita), born June 12, 1908. Married Sept. 10, 1927, to Leonard Harrison Beaver, born April 30, 1893. Address, Center Point, Texas. Farmer and rancher. Five children:
    - aa. Clyde Herbert Beaver, born Aug. 24, 1928.
    - bb. Royce Leonard Beaver, born July 19, 1930.
    - cc. Charles Raymond Beaver, born June 25, 1932.
    - dd. Ruth Evelyn Beaver, born Oct. 29, 1934.
    - ee. Bobby Russell Beaver, born Dec. 4, 1936.
  - b. Daisy Imogene (Powell) Grey, born June 15, 1910. Married May 29, 1927, to Claude Herman Grey, born May 31, 1907. Farmer and rancher. Address, Kerrville, Texas. Two children:
    - aa. Claude Herman Grey, born March 31, 1928.
    - bb. Elmer Ivan Grey, born Feb. 25, 1935.
  - c. Royce Leonard Powell, born Sept. 10, 1912. Married June 7, 1934, to Wynona Sikes, born Feb. 12, 1913. Address, 2129 Tularosa Street, El Paso, Texas. Grocery business. One child:
    - aa. A baby boy, born March 11, 1935. Died same day.
  - d. Ivan Merritt Powell, born Jan. 20, 1915. Married July 24, 1937,





- to Doris White, born April 27, 1917. Ivan is in grocery business, Center Point, Texas.
- e. Clara Beatrice Powell, born Sept. 23, 1917. Address, Comfort, Texas.
  - f. Clyde Alfred Powell, Junior, born April 12, 1920.
  - g. Leona Gertrude Powell, born April 25, 1922.
  - h. Kenneth Addison Powell, born Jan. 9, 1925.
- C. Sidney Addison McDonald, born Aug. 21, 1890. Married Dec. 20, 1915, to Orlena Lizzie Nelson, born Dec. 6, 1897. Addison's address, Tarpley, Texas. Ranchman. Three children:
- a. Sidney Addison McDonald, Junior, born Nov. 30, 1916. Address, A. & M. College, College Station, Texas.
  - b. Julian Damond McDonald, born July 11, 1920.
  - c. Ornell McDonald, born March 21, 1925.
- Note: Addison remarried, Oct. 30, 1937, to Mrs. Lola Padgett, who was born Dec. 2, 1893.
- D. Margaret Ruth (McDonald) Wharton, born July 13, 1893. Died Oct. 26, 1927. Married November, 1914, to Sidney Lee Wharton, born Aug. 6, 1890. Ranchman, Pipe Creek, Texas. Four children:
- a. Harold Lee Wharton, born March 11, 1918.
  - b. Percy Ray Wharton, born Feb. 17, 1920.
  - c. David Almer Wharton, born Feb. 27, 1922.
  - d. Paul Wayne Wharton, born Oct. 17, 1926.
- E. Leona (McDonald) (Moore) Radabaugh, born April 1, 1895. Married May 30, 1919, to William Harold Moore, born May 11, 1896. Remarried July 7, 1930, to Ace T. Radabaugh, born Sept. 11, 1903. Present address, care Linville Hotel, Maryville, Mo. Two children by the first union:
- a. Mary Adlyn Moore, born April 23, 1920. Died Dec. 29, 1930.
  - b. Julia Ione Moore, born July 6, 1921.
3. John Rees, born Nov. 26, 1864, Kerr County, Texas. Died May 13, 1921. Buried at Center Point, Texas. John engaged in farming, ranching and later the mercantile business. Married Nov. 19, 1890, to Bertha May Cocke, born April 3, 1871. Bertha remarried, Dec. 31, 1936, to Joseph Charles Craig. Residence, 134 Arlington Court, San Antonio, Texas. Four children by the first union:
- A. Alvin Roy Rees, born Nov. 26, 1896. Married May 27, 1921, to Dixie Bailey, born Nov. 10, 1900. Residence, 315 Montclair, San Antonio, Texas. Dairyman. Three children:
    - a. Dixie Marie Rees, born March 20, 1922.
    - b. Ruth Rees, born June 6, 1924.
    - c. Alvin Roy Rees, Junior, born Dec. 5, 1926.
  - B. Alva Myrtle (Rees) Rambie, born July 1, 1900. Married Guy S. Rambie, Bandera, Texas. Residence, 619 Naples St., Corpus Christi, Texas. One child:



- a. Guy S. Rambie, Junior, born July 17, 1928.
  - C. Sidney Greydon Rees, born Oct. 7, 1901. Married Dec. 25, 1936, to Edna Barrett, born June 15, 1907, of San Antonio, Texas. He is a newspaper man, with San Antonio Light.
  - D. Belma Lorene Rees, born Dec. 10, 1903. A.B. Degree from Texas University. School teacher. Residence, 443 Chicago Blvd., San Antonio, Texas.
- Note: Granville and Julia Tedford, related on the maternal side of John Rees, were raised in the John and Bertha Rees home.
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4. Fannie (Rees) Cocke, born Dec. 23, 1865. Address, 4105 Cambridge Street, El Paso, Texas. Married Dec. 11, 1889, to Frederick Frank Cocke. Three children:
    - A. Nellie Retha (Cocke) Edens, born June 30, 1891. Married Sept. 18, 1919, to Raymond D. Edens, born Nov. 5, 1891. Address, 703 Camden Street, San Antonio, Texas. Three children:
      - a. R. D. Edens, Jr., born July 11, 1921. Died same day.
      - b. Raymond Maurice Edens, born July 2, 1923.
      - c. Lloyd Elsemere Edens, born Nov. 25, 1925.
    - B. Mabel May (Cocke) Lyons, born Aug. 16, 1894. Married Feb. 22, 1922, to Rev. James Lenoir Lyons, born Aug. 4, 1892. Address, 374 N. Calaveras Ave., Fresno, Calif. Pastor Methodist Church. (James Lyons was reared in the home of Alonzo Rees.)
    - C. Francis Kathleen (Cocke) Bell, born Sept. 2, 1903. Married June 10, 1926, to Clyde Miller Bell, born Dec. 1, 1891. Address, 4105 Cambridge Street, El Paso, Texas. He is a cashier, El Paso Electric Co. One child:
      - a. Lillian Frances Bell, born March 25, 1929.
  
  5. Nellie (Rees) Jones, born July 28, 1868, lives at 1443 McKinley Ave., San Antonio, Texas. Married Feb. 14, 1894, to Emmett Jones who died Jan. 22, 1930, and was buried in Mission Burial Park, San Antonio. By prior marriage, Emmett Jones had three children: Lelia, 1886; Emmett, Jr., 1888-1937, and John Rector, 1891. Children of the second union were five:
    - A. Russell Rees Jones, born Dec. 3, 1894. Married April 28, 1921, to Margaret Mathew Smith, born Nov. 7, 1901. Building contractor, 314 So. Pinto, San Antonio, Texas. Two children:
      - a. Russell Mathew Jones, born Feb. 21, 1925.
      - b. Ruth Margaret Jones, born April 6, 1929.
    - B. Clyde Knight Jones, born June 4, 1897. Married Feb. 15, 1920, to Mabel Vernon Carpenter, born Dec. 2, 1898. With Public Service Co. Lives 211 Glenwood Court, San Antonio. Three children:
      - a. Robert Clyde Jones, born Nov. 12, 1920.
      - b. Joyce Annette Jones, born Oct. 2, 1922.





- c. Jack Wayne Jones, born March 22, 1929.
  - C. Margaret Ruth (Jones) Mathis, born Feb. 25, 1903. Married Nov. 18, 1928, to Lexie H. Mathis, born Nov. 12, 1901. Occupation, insurance. Residence, 922 Bailie Ave., San Antonio. Two children:
    - a. Lexie Ruth Mathis, born Feb. 22, 1932.
    - b. James Rees Mathis, born Feb. 13, 1934.
  - D. Frances Grace Jones, born Oct. 13, 1905. Secretarial work. Residence, 1443 McKinley Ave., San Antonio.
  - E. Ralph Emerson Jones, born Sept. 27, 1910. Civil Engineer. Married Oct. 1, 1937, to Virginia Norris of Childress, Texas, born Sept. 16, 1916. Present address of the couple is P. O. Box 950, Plainview, Texas.
6. Stonewall Jackson Rees, born Jan. 27, 1869, in Kerr County, Texas. Married Jan. 4, 1893, to Louisa Blake Bruff, born May 7, 1875, at St. Michael, Maryland. Jack died Jan. 28, 1935, and Lou passed away Oct. 24, 1932. Bodies buried at Center Point, Texas. Nine children:
- A. Carl Leon Rees, born Nov. 15, 1893. Died Dec. 31, 1893.
  - B. Elva Rowena (Rees) Hood, born March 17, 1895. Married Aug. 16, 1919, to Maurice Killough Hood, born April 5, 1883, Blanco, Texas. Residence address, P.O. Box 392, 1116 Quintana B., South San Antonio, Texas. Feed and grain dealer. Two children, twin sons:
    - a. William Rees Hood, born March 12, 1930. Died March 15, 1930.
    - b. Sidney Maurice Hood, born March 12, 1930. Died March 15, 1930.
  - C. Ona Vida (Rees) Saigh, born Dec. 4, 1898. Married July 11, 1920, to Nicholas Allen Saigh, born Jan. 14, 1893, Chicago, Ill. Is contractor. Residence, 538 Kings Court, San Antonio, Texas. One child:
    - a. Nicholas Allen Saigh, Junior, born Nov. 29, 1926.
  - D. Eppa Corine (Rees) Duncan, born May 28, 1900. Married July 15, 1928, to Leslie Oliver Duncan, born Aug. 30, 1895, Glidden, Tex. Is with Southern Pacific R.R. Residence, 1412 No. Alamo Street, San Antonio, Texas.
  - E. Eron Lean (Rees) Boone, born Feb. 28, 1904. Married June 11, 1924, to Bolton Boone, a Methodist minister, born Oct. 16, 1900. Present residence, Harlingen, Texas. Three children:
    - a. Rowena May Boone, born Sept. 27, 1926. Died same day.
    - b. Bolton Boone, Junior, born Aug. 17, 1927.
    - c. Betty Lou Boone, born March 5, 1931.
  - F. Fletcher Anderson Rees, born Jan. 25, 1906. Died April 23, 1931.
  - G. Alline (Rees) Sowell, born Oct. 6, 1908. Married June 8, 1927, to Charles Lee Sowell, born Jan. 13, 1903, San Antonio. Is High School Athletic Director. Residence, 826 West Elsmere Ave., San Antonio, Texas. Two children:
    - a. Charles Lee Sowell, Junior, born Oct. 29, 1929.
    - b. Jack Robson Sowell, born Jan 29, 1932.





- H. Almeda May Rees, born May 12, 1916, San Antonio, Texas. Present address, 538 Kings Court, San Antonio.
- I. Margaret Louise Rees, born Sept. 28, 1918. Died July 8, 1919.
7. Robert Rees, born March 30, 1870, Kerr County, Texas. Married Jan. 11, 1893, to Pauline Agnes Vaughn, born March 20, 1874, Kerr County. Address, Sonora, Texas. Five children:
- A. Martin Loren Rees, born Jan. 12, 1894. Occupation, Chief Engineer of Resettlement Administration, East Texas, and Southern Oklahoma. Married July 23, 1915, to Mary Louis Scott. Address, Highlands, Texas. Two children:
    - a. Ruth Elora Rees, born June 28, 1920.
    - b. Louise Rees, born June 23, 1925.
  - B. Margaret Leanne (Rees) Chipman, born Nov. 23, 1896. Married Aug. 28, 1919, to Jack Hamilton Chipman, ranchman, born Oct. 27, 1891, Bandera Co. Address, Bandera, Texas. Two children:
    - a. Wayne Hamilton Chipman, born July 30, 1920.
    - b. Margaret Ada Chipman, born October 25, 1922.
  - C. Pearl (Rees) Thomas, born Aug. 20, 1898. Married August 23, 1921, to John Dudley Thomas, who was born July 25, 1879, deceased July 7, 1931. Two children:
    - a. Robert Dudley Thomas, born June 24, 1922.
    - b. Frances Elaine Thomas, born May 24, 1924, died June 12, 1931. Mrs. Pearl (Rees) Thomas remarried, Sept. 2, 1937, to Algernon Sidney Welch, born Nov. 3, 1888. Salesman of real estate, and lives at Bryan, Texas. Address, 114 Main Street.
  - D. Horace Benner Rees, grocer, born Oct. 14, 1905. Married Aug. 6, 1925, to Margaret Holland, born Sept. 18, 1904. Address, Eldorado, Texas. Two children:
    - a. Horace B. Rees, Jr., born July 24, 1926.
    - b. Bobbie Hal Rees, born Mar. 25, 1930.
  - E. Thelma Agnes Rees, born April 14, 1907. Does clerical work at Sonora, Texas.
8. Alice (Rees) Ezzell, born May 8, 1873, Kerr County, Texas. Married Nov. 20, 1903, to William L. Ezzell, who died Aug. 1, 1919. Buried in San Antonio, Texas. Alice (Rees) Ezzell now lives at South Houston, Texas. Address, General Delivery, South Houston. Three children:
- A. William Sidney Ezzell, born Dec. 7, 1905. Died Feb. 23, 1938.
  - B. Emily Rebecca (Ezzell) DeGroat, born June 15, 1908. Married Dec. 14, 1927, to Judd DeGroat, born July 20, 1904, in Southern Missouri. Occupation, longshoreman. Address South Houston, Texas. Three children:
    - a. Alice Joy DeGroat, born Oct. 23, 1928.
    - b. Judd DeGroat, Jr., born June 18, 1931.



- c. Mary Nell DeGroat, born Sept. 3, 1934.
  - C. Grace Camella (Ezzell) Erly, born Jan. 28, 1911. Married May 4, 1935, to John Erly, born April 4, 1896, in Alabama. Occupation. longshoreman. Address, South Houston, Texas.
9. Albert Sidney Johnson Rees, born Aug. 26, 1874, in Kerr County, Texas. Married Dec. 20, 1900, to Zora Nowlin, born Aug. 30, 1876, died Nov. 12, 1908. Children of this union were two:
- A. Richard Wade Rees, born Dec. 31, 1901. Married Dec. 20, 1932, to Louvenia Kneirim, born Aug. 5, 1903, at Bronte, Texas. Wade is in the Government work. Address, 1720 Ave. J., Lubbock, Texas. One child:
    - a. Bobby Ruth Rees, born Sept. 11, 1935. Died Jan. 12, 1937.
  - B. Henry Douglass Rees, born Nov. 5, 1903. Married Sept. 19, 1936, to Elsie Scheele, born March 25, 1909, at Bandera. Present residence, Center Point, Texas.
- Albert Rees remarried Nov. 9, 1910, to Lucy T. Boulware, born Jan. 2, 1891, at Altus, Oklahoma. The couple lives on a farm near Center Point, Texas. Children of his second marriage are three:
- C. Sidney Boulware Rees, born Aug. 26, 1912. Lives at Center Point, Texas. Groceryman. Married April 2, 1938, to Miss Mildred Ruth Thomas of Gate, Oklahoma, born Feb. 4, 1919, Beaver Co., Okla.
  - D. Glayron Keith Rees, born Oct. 30, 1918. Attends school at Center Point.
  - E. Doris Inez Rees, born March 18, 1928.
10. Walter Scott Rees, born Feb. 1, 1876, in Kerr County, Texas. Married Dec. 17, 1902, to Cora Stevens, born July 26, 1876, at Bandera, Texas. Address, Medina City, Texas. Walter has farmed all his life. Three children:
- A. Nettie Allie Rees, born Feb. 13, 1904. Died July 26, 1904.
  - B. Wendell Holmes Rees, born Dec. 21, 1905. Mechanic. Married May 30, 1925, to Callie Shuptrine, born Aug. 29, 1908, San Marcos, Texas. Address, 146 East White Ave., San Antonio. Four children:
    - a. Callie Lucile Rees, born Sept. 19, 1927.
    - b. Barbara Fay Rees, born Aug. 18, 1930.
    - c. Dorothy Corine Rees, born April 10, 1933.
    - d. Helen Margaret Adell Rees, born May 21, 1937.
  - C. Thelma Fay (Rees) Gibbons, born Oct. 24, 1907. Married Aug. 17, 1935, to Charles Boyd Gibbons, born Orange Co., Calif., May 26, 1902. Occupation, electric welder. Address, 3036 Grand Ave., Huntington Park, California.
11. Dovie (Rees) Edens, born June 3, 1878, at the old Sidney Rees home in Kerr County, Texas. Married Oct. 16, 1901, to Hugh G. Edens





Residence, Center Point, Texas. Occupation, garage and oil agent.  
Five children:

- A. Curtis Edens, born July 10, 1902. Auto mechanic. Married Sept. 16, 1924, to Tiny Bell Waters, who died May 4, 1925. Buried Center Point, Texas. One son born to this couple:
  - a. Curtis Reynolds Edens, born May 3, 1925.Curtis Edens remarried April 10, 1931, to Lucile Jackson, born Oct. 19, 1911. Residence, Center Point, Texas. Two children born to this second union:
  - b. Patricia Ann Edens, born Nov. 2, 1932.
  - c. Mary Jo Edens, born March 16, 1936.
- B. Roderick Tarlton Edens, born July 11, 1904. Married June 8, 1932, to Miss Johnnie Bridges, born Dec. 19, 1910. Address, P. O. Box 516, Laredo, Texas. Grocery business.
- C. Haskell Truett Edens, born Sept. 22, 1908. Married April 6, 1930, to Louise Bishop, born Oct. 10, 1910. Head mechanic, Steeler Motor Co. Residence, Comfort, Texas.
- D. Burgin Edens, born Aug. 1, 1910. Address, Kerrville, Texas, with Butts Piggly Wiggly. Married Nov. 7, 1937, to Doris McCoy of Waco, Texas, born May 29, 1918.
- E. Fayrene Edens, born April 1, 1915. Is a graduate beauty specialist. Present address, 230 Denver Blvd., San Antonio, Texas.

12. Ivey Rees, born March 16, 1881, in Kerr County, Texas. Married Oct. 16, 1901, to Eva Nowlin, born July 14, 1881. Present address, Route 6, Box 1019-A, Houston, Texas. Ivey does carpenter work. Three children:

- A. Ineva (Rees) Lange, born Aug. 20, 1902. Married April 2, 1922, to Vinton R. Lange, born Nov. 19, 1900. Residence, Tom Ball, Texas. Occupation, horticulturist for Humble Oil and Refining Co. One child:
  - a. Bettie Jean Lange, born Nov. 4, 1930.
- B. Gordon Terrell Rees, born July 6, 1910. Married Dec. 22, 1928, to Ruth Lenora Walker, who was born Dec. 2, 1910, and she died June 25, 1933. Gordon is Special Agent, Southern Pacific Railroad. Address, Box 65, Hearne, Texas.
- C. Ivey Rees, Jr., born May 21, 1915. Billing clerk for Universal Terminal Warehouse Co., Houston, Texas.

13. Maggie (Rees) Richardson, born Aug. 3, 1882, in Kerr County, Texas. Married Nov. 21, 1907, to Walter Dee Richardson, born May 30, 1883, at Junction City, Texas. Address, 316 Tivy St., Kerrville, Texas. Three children were born:

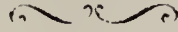
- A. Gerald Dane Richardson, born Oct. 18, 1908, Kerr County, Texas. Married July 14, 1934, to Lucy Nichols, born Dec. 6, 1909, in Kerr





Co. Address, Kerrville, Texas. Gerald employed at State Hospital at Kerrville. One child:

- a. Allen Dane Richardson, born Sept. 27, 1935.
- B. Travis Wayne Richardson, born Feb. 28, 1910, and died Aug. 26, 1913.
- C. Willis Dwight Richardson, born Oct. 10, 1921, in San Antonio. Is student in Tivy High School, Kerrville.



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## THE ADOLPHUS REES BRANCH

II. Daniel Adolphus Rees, born Dec. 2, 1831, at Purdy, McNairy County, Tennessee. Married Dec. 3, 1863, in Kerr County, Texas, to Lucy Ann Nowlin, born Feb. 28, 1848, near Corinth, Miss. D. A. Rees died March 25, 1901, and Lucy passed away Oct. 25, 1929. Their bodies repose in Glen Rest Cemetery, Kerrville, Texas. Ten children were born, and an adopted son was reared in the home: (1) Clay, (2) Guy, (3) Henrietta, (4) Dan, (5) Jim, (6) Sid, (7) Bettie, (8) Dolphy, (9) Ernest, (10) May, and Gus Roche, the adopted son. He was a native of England, shipped to America as a lad, taken in the Rees home in his 'teens. At twenty-one went to Spokane, Wash., entered newspaper business and was very successful. Died Aug. 16, 1935.

1. Henry Clay Rees, born July 16, 1865. Physician and noted surgeon. Died Feb. 4, 1914. Buried at Kerrville, Texas. Farmed and taught school in early life. Married Oct. 17, 1888, to Lavinia Zarelda Kennedy of Louisville, Ky. (Related to Morse, the inventor.) The marriage ceremony was performed by Rev. P. H. Morse, in Louisville, Ky. She died April 23, 1904, buried in Mexico City. Three children:
  - A. Etta Lavinia (Rees) Newman, born Aug. 11, 1889. Married March 31, 1912, to Thomas Leroy Newman, born Feb. 9, 1886. Reside at Gillette, Texas. He was County Commissioner for several years. One son:
    - a. Alton Leroy Newman, born Jan. 18, 1916. Married in Mississippi, Dec. 22, 1933, to Alberta Estelle Busby, born Feb. 11, 1917. He is a commercial artist. Residence, 1106 Tuam St., Houston, Texas. One child:
      - aa. Rose Etta Newman, born Nov. 23, 1934, at Eceto, Texas.
  - B. Clay Adolphus Rees, born July 12, 1891. Was World War participant and Captain. Lives in California. Has always been of a roving disposition, and present address unknown.
  - C. Olive Lucy (Rees) Kerns, born Jan. 10, 1893. Married in San Antonio, July 12, 1911, to Allen Ollen Kerns, merchant, and lives at 104 Hammond Ave., San Antonio, Texas. He was born Feb. 4, 1886, at Sayers, Texas. Olive Lucy is the "image" of her mother. One daughter:
    - a. Olive Evelyn Kerns, born Nov. 11, 1912. Graduate of O. C. W. at Chickasha, Okla., June, 1937. School teacher at Johnson City, Texas.

(Note) Clay Rees remarried 1905 to Minnie Frances Garvey of Mechanicsburg, Ill. This couple lived in Mexico City for many years. She yet lives in Mechanicsburg.

2. Guy Rees, born 1866. Died Dec. 9, 1868.



3. Henrietta Eliza (Rees) Baxter, born Nov. 3, 1863. Married April 5, 1905, to John Chester Baxter, who was born March 3, 1861, at Seguin, Texas, and died June 2, 1921. Buried at Seguin. Both taught school. Henrietta continuously since 1887. She resides at 924 Myrta Street, Kerrville, Texas, and teaches in the school of that place. John C. Baxter headed the Kerrville Public Schools for several years, organized and established the Grade System in the Kerrville schools. He was a man of military bearing, and having had early training, organized the older boys of the school into a military unit. Returned students of military schools were called in to help with the drilling—notably Bert Parsons of Kerrville. (The writer was (proudly) made captain of the company.) The children of the Baxters' were:
- A. John Chester Baxter, born Jan. 13, 1906. Married August 30, 1930, to Eltha C. Gerhardt of Rolla, Missouri, born Sept. 27, 1907. He is with the American Telephone and Telegraph Co. at Saint Louis. Home address, 6228 Arsenal, St. Louis, Mo.
  - B. Ruth Baxter, born Oct. 21, 1907. Lives Menger Hotel, San Antonio, Texas, and does commercial advertising for Frank Brothers, San Antonio.
4. Daniel Richard Rees, born Nov. 8, 1870. Married Jan. 9, 1898, to Ellen Ora Smith, born June 21, 1880, Kerr County, Texas. Residence two miles west of Kerrville, Texas. Farmer and stock raiser. Seven children were born:
- A. Nowlin Rees, born Dec. 22, 1898. Married March 2, 1921, at Lockhart, Texas, to Ruby Dan Roberts, born Oct. 15, 1904, at Lockhart. Nowlin is an oil well driller, living at Freer, Texas. Four children:
    - a. Daniel Dryden Rees, born Jan. 21, 1922.
    - b. Gloria June Rees, born Feb. 12, 1925.
    - c. Nowlin Jimmie Rees, born Nov. 23, 1933.
    - d. Barbara Ann Rees, born Sept. 7, 1935.
  - B. Annie (Rees) Peckham, born April 6, 1900. Died Dec. 1, 1922. Married Dec. 2, 1921, in Indiana, to Russell Peckham, born May 9, 1901, at Ironton, Wisconsin.
  - C. Harriet (Rees) Sheppard, born May 11, 1901. Married June 25, 1924, at Kerrville, to Marshall Sheppard, who was born Jan. 24, 1904, at Stockdale, Texas, and is employed by the Southern Pacific Railroad. Address 211 West Johnson Street, San Antonio, Texas. Harriet is Secretary, Kerr County Society of San Antonio. Two children:
    - a. Roberta Ellen Sheppard, born Oct. 3, 1925.
    - b. Marshall Sheppard, Junior, born Nov. 24, 1928.
  - D. Daniel Adolphus Rees, born April 30, 1903, Kerr County, Texas. Engaged in ranching near Kerrville.





- E. A baby boy, born Nov. 27, 1904. Lived but a few minutes.
- F. Louise Rees, born Aug. 21, 1905, and died Aug. 27, 1905.
- G. Ellen Ora (Rees) James, born Jan. 19, 1910. Married Aug. 1, 1926, at Kerrville, to Arlie James. He is employed by the Texas Highway Department at Kerrville, Texas, and was born at that place Oct. 25, 1900. Two children:
- a. Arlie Richard James, born March 24, 1930.
  - b. Shirley Ann James, born July 28, 1935.
5. James Crispin Rees, born March 18, 1872. Married February, 1902, to Ida Stieler, born March 10, 1881. Lived one mile west of Kerrville, Texas, where they both died. Jim deceased Aug. 24, 1923, and Ida passed away Jan. 31, 1932. Their bodies are buried at Glen Rest Cemetery, Kerrville, as is that of their deceased son, Julius. Jim farmed, but had natural bent toward mechanics and steam engines. Six sons were born to this couple:
- A. Guy Stieler Rees, born Jan. 12, 1903. Address, 914 Grand, Kansas City, Kansas. Unmarried.
  - B. James Casper Rees, born June 20, 1904. Married July 5, 1927, to Sylvia E. Theriot, born Nov. 23, 1903, at Cameron, La. Residence, 2806 Cumberland Street, Wichita Falls, Texas. Two children:
    - a. Sylvia Emma Lee Rees, born Sept. 16, 1933.
    - b. Clarice Ida Rees, born Nov. 10, 1935.
  - C. Herman Clarence Rees, born Oct. 10, 1906. Public Accountant. Address, care Slavik-Chorpening & Co., Jones Building, Corpus Christi, Texas.
  - D. Eugene Alfred Rees, born April 30, 1908. Married in Los Angeles, March 30, 1935, to Mattee McKee Ward, born Feb. 21, 1914, at Calexico, California. Temporary address 1303 Waverly Ave., San Antonio, Texas. One daughter:
    - a. Mary Ida Rees, born Dec. 21, 1935.
  - E. Emil Real Rees, born Oct. 23, 1913. Occupation, traveling. Address unknown.
  - F. Julius Walter Rees, born March 31, 1913, and died Nov. 1, 1921.
6. Sidney Alonzo Rees (always known as Sid), born Aug. 24, 1875, near Kerrville, Kerr County, Texas. Married Jan. 9, 1905, in San Antonio, to Mrs. Louetta (Williams) Hayes, born April 23, 1875, in Benton County, Iowa. The couple resides 1303 Waverly Avenue, San Antonio, Texas. As a young man Sid taught school for many years, farmed and ranched, but is now engaged in the Real Estate and Live Stock Commission business in San Antonio. Has mastered the Spanish language, and speaks it fluently. One daughter:
- A. Leah Louetta Violet Hayes, born Oct. 7, 1897, in Los Angeles, California, and died Oct. 7, 1937, in San Antonio.





7. Bettie (Rees) Vining, born May 31, 1877. Married Oct. 9, 1898, in the Kerrville Methodist Church, to Jeff Lee Vining, born Oct. 3, 1863. The home of this couple has been Mercedes, Texas, for many years, but temporarily residing 2616 Speedway, Austin, Texas. Five children:
  - A. Reuben Adolphus Vining, born July 20, 1899. Died March 30, 1900. Buried at Kerrville, Texas.
  - B. Varina Cumie Vining, (called "Peg"), born Jan. 17, 1901. Address, Coalinga, California. Is a department head in Security National Bank at Coalinga.
  - C. Bessie (Vining) Hooper, born Aug. 26, 1903, at Kerrville, Texas. Married July 4, 1923, at Phoenix, Ariz., to Charles Brooks Hooper, born Edinburg, Miss., March 21, 1901. Couple resides 1131 East Garfield St., Phoenix, Arizona.
  - D. Lucy Elizabeth (Vining) Orres, born Sept. 12, 1905, at Kerrville. Married June 19, 1927, at Santa Ana, Calif., to Martin Orres, specialty automobile mechanic. Was World War participant. Residence, Humbolt, Iowa. Children, one son:
    - a. Martin Lee Orres, born Aug. 26, 1928, at Long Beach, Calif.
  - E. Jeff Lee Vining, Junior, born Sept. 17, 1916, Coalinga, California. Lives with parents, and is student at Texas University, Austin, Texas, in his Junior year, and majoring in Civil Engineering.  
 Note: The High School at Kerrville, Texas, is called the Tivy High School, so named in honor of Capt. Joseph A. Tivy, who donated the spacious grounds. Bettie Rees was one of the first graduating class (three in number) in 1895.
  
8. John Adolphus Rees, (called Dolphy in early life) born March 6, 1879, near Kerrville, Texas. Lived adult life in California; died near Barstow, California, July 3, 1936. Body rests Inglewood Cemetery, Inglewood, California. Was engaged in the oil leasing business. Married 1903 to Francis Donovan, at Bisbee, Arizona. Remarried 1909, to Evelyn Parker, at Santa Barbara, California. Two children:
  - A. Hazel Evelyn (Rees-Hughey) Kroeger, born May 12, 1912, at Santa Barbara. Married Sept. 12, 1935, to Wilfred Kroeger, born Oct. 12, 1903. Is City Engineer and resides 845 High Street, Oroville, California. One child:
    - a. Deanna Jean Kroeger, born June 21, 1937.
  - B. Jack Parker (Rees) Hughey, born Jan. 4, 1916, at Coalinga, California. Married June 8, 1935, to Ruth Mildred at Carson City, Nev. She was born June 14, 1916. Two children:
    - a. William Parker Hughey (Billie), born May 20, 1936.
    - b. Jack David Hughey (Jackie) born June 14, 1937.
 Note: The second husband of Mrs. Evelyn (Parker-Rees) Hughey, Mr. William V. Hughey, legally adopted, 1925, Hazel and Jack (numbered A and B, above) and their names are properly recorded as Hughey, though originally Rees. Mr. and Mrs. W. V. Hughey live



at Avenal, Calif.

John Adolphus Rees married the third time, 1923, at Santa Maria, California, to Mrs. Josephine (Stevenson) Wells. One child:

C. James Adolphus Rees, (called Sunny Boy) born June, 1927. Lives in Los Angeles with his mother.

9. Samuel Ernest Rees, born Oct. 4, 1882, near Kerrville, Kerr County, Texas. Married June 12, 1906, to Anna Viola Pabst, born May 10, 1885. His father, D. A. Rees, was the first Clerk of Kerr County, Texas. Many years later Ernest, his youngest son, was Deputy Clerk in the same office. Present address, 6203 Templeton Street, Huntington Park, California. Ernest is now engaged in the oil tools business. Two children:

A. Evelyn Lucy (Rees) Hveem, born May 11, 1907, at Coalinga, California. Married July 5, 1930, at Huntington Park, to Francis N. Hveem, who is State Highway Engineer, in charge of Oil Mix Asphalt Dept., of State Laboratory, Sacramento. He was born Feb. 8, 1898, at Delta, California. One daughter:

a. Karen Mary Ann Hveem, born Feb. 21, 1934, at Sacramento, California.

B. Caroline Dorothy Rees, born April 11, 1913, at San Antonio, Texas.

10. Lucy May (Rees) (Moore) Nance, born April 17, 1889, near Kerrville, Texas. May graduated from the Tivy High School, 1907, and later attended other institutions of higher study. Married Sept. 29, 1911, to James Moore, of Center Point, Texas, who deceased March, 1927. May remarried 1929, to O. Douglass Nance. Engaged in ranching for many years near Junction, Texas. No children born to either union



#### *RECORD OF FUTURE EVENTS*





## RECORD OF FUTURE EVENTS





### THE MARTHA (REES) STARKEY BRANCH

III. Martha Ann Adeline (Rees) Starkey, born Feb. 16, 1834, Purdy, McNairy County, Tennessee. Died April 26, 1905. Married in Kerr County, Texas, April 3, 1860, to James Monroe Starkey, born Feb. 6, 1820, Sparta, White County, Tennessee. He died April 30, 1891. This couple always lived near Kerrville, Kerr County, Texas. Bodies laid to rest in private cemetery on the Starkey farm west of Kerrville. Five children were born, four yet survive: (1) Alice, (2) Jones, (3) Jim, (4) Curg, (5) Ed.

1. Alice Starkey, born Jan. 12, 1861, near Kerrville, Texas, where she has always lived, and until this day. Educated 'at home,' in the schools of Kerrville and in a school for girls at Staunton, Virginia. Taught in Kerr County and Kerrville schools for many years. A devoted church worker and leader in all branches of Methodism, was the first conference secretary of West Texas Home Missionary Society. In honor of her long and distinctive service was awarded a life membership, 1937.

2. Jones Starkey, born Sept. 9, 1862. Died Sept. 9, 1868. Death accidental.

3. John James Starkey, (called Jim) born Sept. 21, 1870, near Kerrville, where he still lives. Graduate of Coronal Institute, San Marcos, Texas. Farmed and taught school much of his early life. Editor of The Kerrville Times. A student of history, writes much, particularly of West Texas pioneer history. Democratic chairman, Kerr County, for many years. Was Texas delegate to the National Democratic Convention at Philadelphia, 1936.

4. Alonzo Lyeurgus Starkey, (called Curg) born Aug. 25, 1872, Kerr County, Texas. Married June 3, 1900, at Kerrville, to Pattie Ruth Goodwin, born Jan. 10, 1879. Curg Starkey is County Surveyor of Kerr County, a position he has held for forty years, and lives near Kerrville. Attended Kerrville schools and Southwestern University at Georgetown, Texas. Six children born to this couple: (A) Rankin, (B) Horace, (C) Maryon, (D) Martha, (E) J. H., (F) Junior.

A. Gordon Rankin Starkey, born Aug. 12, 1901, Kerr County, Texas. Educated Kerrville schools and University of Texas, at Austin. Owner and publisher of The Kerrville Times, recently adjudged the best weekly newspaper in the State of Texas, 1937.

Rankin engaged to be married to Miss Katherine Pate, November 26, 1938, at Hidalgo, Texas.

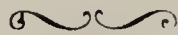


- B. Horace Jones Starkey, born Nov. 23, 1903. Is in Government service at San Antonio. Was schooled at Kerrville and University of Texas. Present address, 510 East Elmira, San Antonio, Texas.
- C. Maryon Lucile (Starkey) Moore, born Jan. 21, 1903. Graduate Tivy High, and attended Texas University. Married Nov. 8, 1930, to Thomas Jasper Moore, born Sept. 1, 1905. Schools: Tivy High, Schreiner Institute, and Business College. Residence, Ingram, Texas, where Jasper is engaged in mercantile business. Two children: (a) Virginia, (b) Jasper, Jr., (Jack).
- a. Martha Virginia Moore, born Sept. 11, 1932.
- b. Thomas Jasper Moore, Junior, born March 9, 1934.
- D. Martha Lillie Starkey, born Sept. 1, 1913. Graduate Tivy High, Schreiner Institute, student Texas University, at Austin, Texas.
- E. James Hartwell Starkey ("J. H."), born May 8, 1916. Graduate Tivy High and Schreiner Institute at Kerrville.
- F. Alonzo Lycurgus Starkey, Jr., ("Junior"), born May 4, 1920. Student in Tivy High School, at Kerrville.
5. Edwin Starkey, born Feb. 14, 1876, near Kerrville, Texas. Schooled at Kerrville and Southwestern University, Georgetown, Texas. Married at Greeley, Weld County, Colorado, Feb. 4, 1904, to Dukie Ramey Rugh, born April 1, 1883, in Indiana County, Pennsylvania. Present residence and address, 706 East 18th Street, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Ed's early activities: Farmer, school teacher, merchant. Served as Deputy Insurance Commissioner of Colorado under Gov. John F. Shafroth 1911-1913. Is Life Insurance executive, active in civic affairs, and author of THE HOUSE OF REES. Three children were born to this couple: (A) Alice, (B) Ed, Jr., (C) Ruth.
- A. Alice Marie (Starkey) Finckel, born April 6, 1905, at Greeley, Colorado. Educated Oklahoma City schools, and Columbia University, New York. Studied piano for many years with Oliver Denton, N. Y. Winner of many piano contests. Married May 22, 1926, in New York City, to John Alden Finckel, born March 23, 1903, in Washington, D. C. He is a direct descendant of the historical John Alden. Both are accomplished musicians. Residence, 1418 Rhode Island Ave., N. W., Washington, D. C. One child: (a) Mary Alice.
- a. Mary Alice Finckel, born Oct. 28, 1927, in Washington, D. C. (Eleventh descendant from the original John Alden.)
- B. Edwin Rugh Starkey, born Aug. 13, 1906, Greeley, Colorado. Graduate of Central High, Oklahoma City, and Oklahoma University, 1929, Norman, Oklahoma. Engaged in life insurance business and frozen food plant. Married Nov. 9, 1929, to Helen Marr Woodward, Oklahoma City. She was born March 6, 1903, Oklahoma City, and is granddaughter of T. M. Richardson, one of the founders of Oklahoma City. Residence, 2044 West 22, Oklahoma City. One child: (a) Sue.





- a. Sue Starkey, born Dec. 7, 1933, Oklahoma City.
- C. Ruth (Starkey) Duncan, born Feb. 19, 1908, Greeley, Colorado. Married Sept. 20, 1933, Oklahoma City, to Robert Thomas Duncan, born April 29, 1911, a native of Oklahoma. Engaged in fire insurance business. Ruth is a student and teacher of voice and has done much supervisory work in summer camps for girls. Both have degrees from Oklahoma University, Norman, Oklahoma. Ruth previously graduated from Central High, Oklahoma City, and Stephens College at Columbia, Missouri. Bob, M.A. degree. Residence, Oklahoma City. One child, a son: (a) Dean.
- (a) Dean Edwin Duncan, born Aug. 31, 1935, at St. Anthony's Hospital, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.



#### RECORD OF FUTURE EVENTS





## RECORD OF FUTURE EVENTS

1. [Faint text, likely a list item or paragraph describing a future event or prediction.]

2. [Faint text, likely a list item or paragraph describing a future event or prediction.]

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## THE ALONZO REES BRANCH

✓. Alonzo Rees, born Sept. 6, 1837, at Purdy, McNairy Co., Tennessee. Married Jan. 16, 1868, Kerr County, Texas, to Eleanor Ann Brown, born Feb. 7, 1851. Lived in and near Center Point always. Both deceased. Alonzo, Jan. 26, 1919, and Ellen, Feb. 16, 1937. She was the last of the Invincible Eight to go. Bodies rest at Center Point Cemetery. Twelve children were born, and an adopted son was reared in the home: (1) John, (2) Ella, (3) Little Buddie, (4) Add, (5) Brownie, (6) Joe, (7) Louis, (8) Etta, (9) Osbon, (10) Janie, (11) Charlie, (12) Abbie, and the foster son, James L. Lyons.

1. John B. Rees, born Nov. 17, 1868, in Kerr County, Texas. Married May 17, 1899, to Josephine Klein, born April 7, 1879. School teacher for many years. Now farming and stock raising near Center Point, Texas, on the old Alonzo Rees place. Five children and four grandchildren:

A. Warren Alonzo Rees, born March 14, 1900, Kerr Co., Texas. Married Sept. 1, 1924, to Prudence Whittenberg, born Jan. 30, 1899, at San Saba, Texas. Warren has A.B. and Masters' degrees. Teaches in Houston University, is author of Mathematical College Text Book. Residence address, 3025 Amherst, Houston, Texas. Three children:

- a. Warren Alonzo Rees, Jr., born June 10, 1928.
- b. Nancy Jo Rees, born July 3, 1931.
- c. Claude Justus Rees, born Jan. 29, 1938.

B. Paul Klein Rees, born June 10, 1902. Married June 22, 1935, to Mary Elizabeth Boone, born Oct. 7, 1908. Paul has taught school for years. Now at New Mexico A. & M., at Las Cruces. Author of text book on trigonometry. Has A.B., Masters' and Ph.D. degrees. Address, Box 104, State College, New Mexico. One son:

- a. Paul Boone Rees, born June 1, 1937.

C. Lenore Leutwine Rees, born June 27, 1904. Attended Texas University. Has A.B. degree from Scarritt College, Nashville, Tenn.; and M.A. degree from University of Mexico, 1937. Was missionary to Mexico for five years. At present teaching school at Luling, Texas.

D. Dorothy Louise Rees, born Jan. 9, 1907. Holds A.B. degree with honors from Texas University, at Austin. Now teaching in the Center Point schools.

E. Wesley Waltrip Rees, born July 28, 1912. Married Sept. 14, 1935, to Marie Jensen. Wesley attended Schreiner Institute one year and Texas University two years. Now doing Geophysics Survey for a large oil concern. Present address, Box 432, Angleton, Texas.

2. Willie Ella (Rees) (Godwin) Bell, born June 11, 1870, Kerr County, Texas. Married 1898 to Rev. C. W. Godwin, a Methodist minister,





who died Nov. 1915. One child, adopted:

A. Myrtle Holden Godwin, born March 29, 1898. Married June 11, 1922, to Jesse Hamilton Grinstead, born Nov. 8, 1901, the son of J. E. Grinstead, an editor and writer of note. They reside 459 University, San Antonio, Texas.

Ella was later married, Nov. 20, 1919, to Langtry Bell, copper miner. Lived in California for many years. To her immediate relatives she has always been known as "Sis." Present address, 2331, 30th Ave., San Francisco, Calif.

3. Joshua Rees, (Little Buddie) born Sept. 1, 1872, and died March 11, 1874.

4. Martha Adeline (Rees) (Barlemann) Ransom, born April 10, 1874, in Kerr Co., Texas. Married July 25, 1894, to Charlie Barlemann, born Feb. 4, 1862, Alsace, Germany, died Feb. 4, 1896. Buried Brown Family Cemetery, near Kerrville, Texas. One daughter and one granddaughter:

A. Margherita Lucy (Barlemann) Graham, born Jan. 9, 1896. Married Dec. 12, 1921, to John Sebron Graham, born Feb. 19, 1890, at Dallas, Texas. Engaged in automobile service station business. Residence, Kenedy, Texas. Margherita is Primary Teacher in Kenedy schools. One daughter:

a. Frieda Barlemann Graham, born July 11, 1923.

Adeline (Rees) Barlemann remarried Nov. 20, 1917, to Frank Ransom, born April 8, 1873, New York. Railroad engineer. Residence 14402 Califa Street, Van Nuys, California.

5. Brownie (Rees) Cocke, born April 11, 1876, Kerr County, Texas. Married Sept. 20, 1896, to William Alexander Cocke. Being well equipped with education and temperament, Brownie organized and is a librarian at the Austin Public Library, and lives at 216 Elmwood Place, Austin, Texas. Will is a prominent attorney of El Paso, Texas. Holds L.L.B. degree, 1904, from Texas University where he won many oratorical honors, and was outstanding as a debater. Served with distinction in the Texas Legislature from Bexar County, and was Fair Price Commissioner for Texas during World War by appointment of President Woodrow Wilson. Writer and poet of no mean ability, notably his collection called "Wayside Musings." Author of "The Bailey Controversy in Texas." Seven children were born to this union:

A. Ione Phoebe (Cocke) Joplin, born July 27, 1897. Married Nov. 25, 1925, to John F. Joplin, farmer, born May 19, 1893. Ex-soldier, World War, Second Lieutenant, A.E.F., and Graduate of Texas A.





- & M. College. Ione taught English, Kidd Key College, Sherman, Texas, and has B.A. and M.A. degrees, University of Texas. Address, Rusk, Texas. One child, adopted:
- a. John Carl Joplin, born April 20, 1923.
- B. Pensive Beatrice (Cocke) Robertson, born Oct. 15, 1899. Has B.A. degree, Texas University, and M.A. degree from Texas Christian University, Fort Worth. Teaches High School English in Fort Worth school system. Married June 15, 1921, to George Leonard Robertson, Captain in World War. Attorney, and born Jan. 17, 1894, at Meridian, Texas. Residence, 3520 South Adams, Fort Worth, Texas. Two children:
- a. George Leonard Robertson, Junior, born Aug. 28, 1922.
  - b. Muriel Ann Robertson, born Feb. 11, 1924.
- C. Willie Frances (Cocke) Rich, born Aug. 4, 1901. Has B.A. from Texas U., and M.A. degree work. Taught three years in Lingnan University, Canton, China. Married Sept. 4, 1929, to Raymond Thomas Rich, born May 13, 1899, at Hyde Park, Mass. Residence, 90 Morningside Drive, New York City. Business address, 11 West 42 Street, New York. Graduate Brown University, 1922; Director World Peace Foundation; Counsel or management in Educational Publicity for public interest organizations. One daughter:
- a. Eleanor Ann Rich, born Sept. 11, 1933.
- D. Naomi Elsie (Cocke) Turner, born Dec. 19, 1903. Has B.A. from Texas University, and Masters degree from Harvard, 1930. Married Dec. 24, 1924, to Clair Elsmere Turner, Dr. P. H., Sc. D., born April 28, 1890, at Harmony, Maine. Author, world traveler, lecturer. Among his books are, "Principles of Health Education," "Personal and Community Health," "Health Heroes," series, and text books in health for the elementary and junior high schools. Is Professor at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass., in the Department of Biology and Public Health; also Major in the Sanitary Corps, U. S. A. (Reserve). Residence address, 19 Village Lane, Arlington, Massachusetts. One daughter:
- a. Mary Frances Turner, born Sept. 18, 1928, at Cambridge.
- E. William Alexander Cocke, Junior, born May 6, 1903. Aviator, holding world's glider records. A designer of planes and parts; member Aviation Corps Caterpillar Club. Is now a First Lieutenant in the Air Service. Educated Texas U., and graduate of Brooks and Kelly Fields. Married Aug. 22, 1931, to Frances Findeisen, born July 24, 1912. Residence, 4443 Central Ave., Riverside, California. One child:
- a. Diane Frances Cocke, born May 27, 1932.
- F. Wee Brownie (Cocke) Ursua, born May 19, 1911. Married Feb. 27, 1929, to Francisco Antonio Ursua (Basque), born Oct. 5, 1894. Graduate California University. Once connected with the Mexican Embassy at Washington, D. C.; since then, with the Mexican Em-



bassy in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, San Diego de Chili, and the Embassy of Ecuador. He is now Third Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of Mexico, and Acting Ambassador to Salvador, Central America. The permanent address of this couple is, Avenida Bruselas 37, Coyoacan, Mexico, D. F. Two children:

- a. Josefina Frances Anne Ursua, born May 20, 1931.
- b. Francisco Antonio Alonzo Ursua (called "Happy Prince"), born March 9, 1937.

G. Mildred Eleanor Elaine (Cocke) Andrews; born Dec. 12, 1914, at San Antonio, Texas; B.S. in Education, University of Texas, 1934. Married August 8, 1936, to Robert Horace Andrews; born July 29, 1912, at Richardson, Texas; B.A., The Rice Institute, 1934; C. P. A.; with Humble Oil & Refg. Co., and student of law. Residence, 1630 Vassar Street, Houston, Texas.

6. Joe Denton Rees, born Feb. 7, 1878, Kerr Co., Texas. Died March 30, 1900. Married to Miss Gertrude Ridley, Oct. 19, 1898. Ceremony performed by Rev. Gabe Cocke.

7. Louis Luke Rees, born Feb. 14, 1880, in Kerr County, Texas. Married Evvie D. Hagens, 1905. Lives in Center Point, Texas. Merchant. Three children:

- A. Howard Rees, born Aug. 24, 1903. Lives 121 Marcia Street, San Antonio. Occupation, meat market.
- B. Helen Marie Rees, born Dec. 1, 1911. Married Jan. 15, 1938, to Walter K. Cowden. Residence, Center Point, Tex.
- C. Chester Louis Rees, born Aug. 5, 1918. Student at Schreiner Institute.

8. Etta (Rees) West, born Feb. 22, 1882, Kerr County, Texas. Married Dec. 27, 1906, to Frederick Autie West, who was born September 1880, in Gonzales County, Texas. He died January 24, 1933. Three children:

- A. Frederick Alonzo Milton West, born Feb. 14, 1903, at Center Point, Texas. Studied law at Texas University, taught school, now employed by the Government at Amarillo, Texas. Married March 7, 1931, to Theoleta Spence. No children:
- B. Florence (West) (Atcheson) Ellison, born April 30, 1911, at Center Point. Married April 4, 1931, to Barton Atcheson, who deceased March 30, 1935. Two children were born to this union:
  - a. Barton Atcheson, Junior, born September 24, 1932, at Lubbock, Texas.
  - b. Eleanor Anne Atcheson, born May 5, 1935, in San Antonio.

Note: Florence remarried July 31, 1937, to I. U. Ellison, a native born at San Antonio. The present address of this couple is 243 Mahncke





Court, San Antonio, Texas.

C. Pauline West (Etta's youngest child) born April 3, 1920, in San Antonio. Graduate of the San Antonio High School System. Unmarried, and is Stewardess for the Braniff Air Lines, headquarters at Oklahoma City. Her mail address is 243 Mahneke Court, San Antonio, Texas.

9. Osbon Rees, born Jan. 6, 1884, and died Jan. 16, 1884.

10. Janie Eleanor (Rees) Carriger, born Sept. 27, 1886, near Center Point, Texas. Married Sept. 27, 1914, to Wesley Carroll Carriger, born Sept. 28, 1876. Their present address, Route 1, Box 77, Thermal, Riverside County, California. Occupation, rancher, Coachella Valley. Three children:

A. Mary Eleanor Carriger, born Los Angeles, July 27, 1915. Student at University of California, Berkeley.

B. Richard Pinkney Carriger, born at Center Point, Texas, April 23, 1917. Student, preparing for electrical engineer. Married, July 17, 1937, to Irene Ramuz Fleming, born December 1916, at Monrovia, California. Richard's present occupation, manager service station. Residence, 218 East Lime Street, Monrovia, California.

C. Virginia Rose Carriger, born at Long Beach, California, June 14, 1920. Is Junior in High School.

11. Charles Jacob Rees, born March 8, 1889, in Kerr County, Texas. Is retail grocery merchant at Center Point, Texas. Married May 12, 1914, to Juanita White. Her birth date, Aug. 9, 1890. Three children:

A. Charles Edwin Rees, born Dec. 3, 1920, and died Feb. 3, 1921.

B. Annabelle Rees, born Sept. 1, 1923.

C. Charleey Jo Rees, born Jan. 11, 1927.

12. Abigail Katherine (Rees) Decherd, born Feb. 12, 1895, in Kerr County, Texas. Married June 14, 1916, in Center Point, Texas, to Douglass Graves Decherd, a Methodist minister, born Feb. 8, 1893. Abbie is the youngest of the original thirty six first cousins, born to the Invincible Eight. This family resides 317 South 2nd Street, San Jose, California. Four children:

A. Douglas Rees Decherd, born April 8, 1917. Attending Asbury College, Wilmore, Ky. Majoring in sociology.

B. David Eugene Decherd, born Mar. 29, 1919. In school and desk clerk at Y. M. C. A.

C. Mildred Lois Decherd, born May 21, 1921.

D. Katherine Lorraine Decherd, born May 27, 1923.





RECORD OF FUTURE EVENTS



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MISCELLANEOUS RECORD



WILLIAM H. HARRIS

1840-1900





EDWIN STARKEY

The Self-Appointed Family Historian  
As he was, and as he is.





# THE HOUSE OF REES

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